
Marlboro Little League, Inc.

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www.marborolittleleague.com

Dear Parents and Friends of MLL,

I write to you on behalf of Marlboro Little League (MLL) and its Board of Directors. We are providing you with an overview of what we consider a high-quality, private baseball and softball program serving the Marlboro community in hope that you may enjoy further transparency into the program.

MLL provides the youth of our community an opportunity to learn and play organized baseball and softball in an organized venue. We are a Little-League- International-chartered non-profit entity offering boys and girls teams not only in the Spring and Fall each year, but also during the Summer through our participation in All-Stars and Districts play. The information below provides insight into: Our Mission and Values; The MLL Board of Directors; The Program; The Operations of MLL; and, The Impact of the Program.

Our Mission and Values

MLL's mission is to promote, develop, supervise and voluntarily assist, in all lawful ways, the interest of those who participate in Little League Baseball and Softball. In order to fulfill this mission, MLL believes in and commits to the following values:

- **Fun** – Each player's enjoyable experience through participation is the cornerstone of MLL.
- **Skills Development** – Success is measured by how much players learn and improve, both as individuals and as members of a team. Teaching and positive encouragement are two of the key responsibilities of all managers and coaches.
- **Personal Development** – MLL encourages the development of self esteem in each player by instilling and fostering teamwork, discipline, loyalty, respect, responsibility, tolerance, friendship, sportsmanship and striving for excellence.
- **Competition** – MLL is structured based on player ability. Skills development is paramount in the younger divisions, while competition and team achievement receive increasingly greater emphasis as a child progresses from the Rookie level up and through All-Star and/or District play. At all levels, competition should be balanced.
- **Volunteerism** – In order to ensure the program's success and viability, all players and families of MLL are expected to contribute meaningfully to the operation of the program.
- **Diversity** – MLL strives to provide opportunities for participation in baseball and softball by any children interested in the sport.
- **Community** – MLL is committed to fostering good citizenship, sportsmanship and responsible behavior, both on the field and throughout the complex and the community at large.

MLL Board of Directors

Management of the property as well as all operational and financial affairs of MLL is vested in the Board of Directors (the BOD). The Executive Board, a subset of the BOD, is charged with control and management of the affairs of the corporation and has power to appoint and convene standing committees as it deems necessary as well as to delegate such powers as it deems advisable. The BOD presently has several committees including, but not limited to, the Softball Committee, Fundraising Committee, Finance Committee and the Manager Selection Committee. The current Executive Board is comprised of the following volunteers:

Last Name	First Name	Board Role
Monaco	Anthony	Board President
Amberger	Rich	Player Agent
Derise	Mike	VP North
Lenza	Vinny	VP South / Safety / Insurance
Vitale	Michael	VP Softball, Softball Committee Chairman
Trochiano	Bill	Treasurer, Chairman of Manager Selection Committee
Durso	Mike	Chief Financial Officer, Finance Committee Chairman
McManus-Massey	Joan	President Parents Auxiliary
Epstein	Seth	Chief Operating Officer
Coluccio	Mike	Chief Commissioner
Shea	Jim	Secretary/Rules Czar, Nominations

There are approximately 77 present volunteers comprising the BOD (10 Executive (of which 9 are also have voting power), 17 other voting, and 50 Associate non-voting members). The members of the BOD are all volunteers. They receive no compensation for their dedicated work on behalf of the children of MLL and the community. A complete list of the MLL BOD can be found on the ML website at <http://marlborolittleleague.com/>.

MLL Program

Our program has been and continues to be one of the premier baseball and softball leagues in Monmouth and neighboring counties. We are staffed exclusively with volunteer board members, managers, coaches and other operational staff dedicated solely to the athletic and social development and enjoyment of our children. This dedication and shared goals have made our program successful; we offer one of the finest complexes in central New Jersey as well as the ability to play baseball at all levels of skill through either our little league program or a combination of the little league program and our affiliated travel baseball program. The following table provides an overview of the MLL complex and the program:

Marlboro Little League
Overview of the Program

Area	Little League	Marlboro Baseball Travel Club
League	Marlboro Baseball Inc. (aka: Marlboro Little League or MLL)	The Marlboro Baseball Travel Club (MBTC) is affiliated with MLL and provides intensive, year round training and additional highly-competitive games.
Governing Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not for Profit, registered as a 501(c)(3) • Board of Directors: approximately 77 members of which 26 are voting and 10 serve as Executive Board members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not for Profit, registered as a 501(c)(3) • Board of Directors – approximately ___ members of which ___ are voting and ___ serve as Executive Board members
Size of Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average # of Players: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Spring: 1,425; Fall: 430 • Ages: 5 through 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average # of Players: 300 • Ages: 8 through 15
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average Budget: \$420,000 • Funding Sources : Registration Fees and Fundraising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average Budget: \$125,000 • Funding Sources: Registration Fees and Fundraising
The Complex	<p>MLL complex includes 8 fields (6 fields have lights). The complex includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five 46/60 fields – 3 with lights • One softball field with lights • One 60/90 field – grass infield and lights • One convertible 50/70, 60/90 field – skin infield and lights 	The travel club utilizes the Marlboro Little League fields. An annual stipend is paid to MLL for use of the complex.
Field Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March through mid-June: 100% capacity • Mid June through the end of July: 60% capacity, mostly All-Stars and Districts • August: Not used • September through November: Weekends 100% capacity – available during the weekdays • December through March: Not used 	Used during travel home games. Fields are allocated by MLL for travel use based upon availability. First preference given to MLL games.

MLL Operations

It may be somewhat surprising and informative to learn just what is involved in running a “volunteer program” of MLL’s proportions. While MLL may have started out as small program many years ago, I’m sure you can observe and appreciate that the program has grown considerably.

Marlboro Little League
Overview of the Program

It now operates at levels similar to a growing small business, while being manned by a limited number of individuals who volunteer their own, personal time and skills.

It is important to note that many of our neighboring baseball programs receive financial and/or other support (e.g., fields, use of the school facilities, grounds and fields maintenance, etc.) from their towns. MLL is entirely self-funded and receives no support from Marlboro Township.

The MLL BOD – contrary to the occasional misinterpretation either conveyed at the complex or otherwise heard through various communications and other forums, no Board member is compensated for any of the work he/she does for the MLL. In fact, each member of the BOD does everything he/she can to contain and/or reduce costs while continuing to provide the baseball and softball experience for our community at a quality level that has become expected. The following table provides approximate, summary financial/operational information for a typical year of MLL (ranges are provided due to potential for variability in the numbers year to year as a result of, for example but not limited to, factors such as increased/decreased registrations, normal and extraordinary complex/field wear and tear, etc.):

Description	Amount **
Spring Registration Receipts, net	\$280,000 - \$300,000
Fall Registration Receipts, net	\$40,000 - \$45,000
Fundraising, net	\$85,000 - \$100,000
Total Sources	\$405,000 - \$445,000
Repairs and Field Maintenance	\$160,000 - \$175,000
Utilities	\$40,000 - \$45,000
Uniforms and Equipment	\$70,000 - \$75,000
Debt Service	\$55,000 - \$57,000
Insurance	\$7,000 - \$10,000
Little League Charter Fees	\$10,000 - \$11,000
Umpires	\$40,000 - \$43,000
Other	\$15,000 - \$25,000
Total Uses	\$397,000 - \$441,000

** Does not include the Marlboro Baseball Travel Club

Registration Receipts – Registration receipts are the core source of cash flow, covering approximately 65% of MLL operations.

Fundraising – Over the years, we have aggressively driven fundraising efforts to help avoid or mitigate increases to registration fees as well as to fund capital projects and renovations (e.g., remodeling the bathrooms). Fundraising is critical to the success of the program. Fundraising over any given year includes candy sales during registration, team sponsorships, annual golf outing, kitchen sales net of operating expenses and advertising sales. The more successful we as a program

are with our annual fundraising campaigns, the more flexibility we have to improve the complex as well as maintain the registration fees constant.

Repairs and Field Maintenance – Unlike the vast majority of neighboring towns whose Park Maintenance professionals maintain the baseball fields on behalf of the programs, MLL maintains its own fields using professional landscapers. The landscapers assist MLL with keeping our fields, including things such as the pitching mounds, to spec. We try to provide the best drainage possible in order to allow as much day-of as well as day-after-rain play as we can. We keep the lips between the grass and dirt as even as we can to prevent bad hops to reduce the risk of injuries.

Utilities –Six out of the eight fields at MLL are under lights. This provides the ability for the program to offer significantly more games and also adds a different and exciting level of baseball/softball enjoyment for our kids. With this, however, comes considerable cost for running the lights over many months throughout the year. MLL spends approximately \$27,000 to \$30,000 per annum to light the fields.

Uniforms and Equipment – MLL spends approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 per annum on uniforms and \$15,000 to \$20,000 on equipment. Each season our Equipment Manager inspects the equipment for safety prior to distribution to teams. Damaged or old equipment is discarded and replaced accordingly. Uniforms are provided (with the exception of pants) to each player at the beginning of each new season.

Debt Service – Due the continual growth in player registration, three new baseball fields (known as Fields F, G, and H) were recently added to the complex. The alternative to constructing these additional fields would have been to institute a lottery system whereby some registrants would have been turned away due to capacity constraints. The three new fields include softball, T-Ball and convertible 50/70 to 60/90-baseball fields.

The MLL BOD approved an original budget for the new fields of \$580,000, with additional improvements approved throughout construction to the fields as well as to the MLL complex and other fields. These improvements included lighting on two of the new fields, netting on existing fields, paving the new parking lot and building a new concession stand with additional restrooms. The funding for these capital improvements, totaling approximately \$715,000, was obtained primarily through loans and MLL operations.

LL Charter Fees – As a member of Little League International, we are required to pay annual dues and registration fees. The fees are generally based upon the number of players in the program in a given year.

Umpires –The umpires are paid a nominal fee for the services provided. We provide an opportunity for eligible youths within our community to participate.

Other – In addition to the costs presented above, MLL incurs other expenses such as trophies (approximately \$11,000 a year); clinics, and seminars for league officers, managers/coaches, and umpires; safety certifications classes, background checks; bank fees, etc.

Impact of the Program

While little league is not unique to our town, our program does offer some unique aspects while providing the ability to play, enjoy and excel at the fine sport of baseball/softball.

- *The Opportunity to Experience Top Quality Fields* – With our children properly and safely outfitted and a tremendous desire to play ball, they need a venue we are all satisfied with. MLL facilities are widely considered to be in top-tier level quality within the state of New Jersey. Do we need to have such immaculate–and–well–groomed playing grounds? Not necessarily; children elsewhere manage to play baseball and softball in abandoned dirt lots. However, the people who have dedicated thousands of hours over the years to our program wanted more than the bare minimum for the children in our town, and so do we!
- *Our LL community* – If you’ve had the opportunity to observe other towns’ fields, in many instances you might have had an opportunity to reflect on and appreciate just how fortunate your children are to play on fields of MLL’s quality. Many families, particularly within the travel program, have had the opportunity to observe solely dirt infields, crooked pitcher’s mounds, two-foot dips between the infield cut and the outfield, rusted fences, lack of dugouts, weeds though out the fields and so on.
- *10+ years of baseball fun, fond memories, and learning* – The MLL program offers kids ages 5 through 17 the opportunity to play, laugh, succeed, and stand out individually as well as experience team comraderie and accomplishments. It is a wonderful environment to grow up in and make lifetime friends and memories.
- *Committed to growing our softball program* – Marlboro Little League is dedicated to enhancing its girl’s softball program for township residents. This is evident through the formation of a **NEW Softball Committee** consisting of members of the Marlboro Little League Board of Directors along with softball managers and coaches. MLL believes this is a positive step in the right direction for the softball program. Members of this committee are committed to work together as one cohesive group in order to elevate the program to premier status within the District.
- *Successful Middle School, Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity and College Ball Players* – Almost every Marlboro player who succeeds at these levels has been groomed through MLL and MBTC programs. While the school coaches have claim to their victories in their own right, we will always take our credit for helping those ballplayers understand what commitment and quality play are all about. In addition, we have had numerous participants play at the college level (some receiving athletic financial aid), including a significant number at Division 1. Some have even gone on to play professionally in MLB. It is dedication and commitment by our many volunteers that make the Marlboro Little League recognized as one of the premier programs in all of New Jersey.

Marlboro Little League
Overview of the Program

- *Travel and All-Star Champions* – *MLL and MBTC* have produced numerous championship teams (from age groups 8 through 15) that have won local travel tournaments as well as District and Regional Little League tournaments. Our players have attained success at high levels of competitive play, and as a result Marlboro boasts more than its fair share of first place trophies as well as district championships.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide you an overview of the MLL program. If you have any questions regarding the program, finances or wish to become a volunteer please feel free to attend a board meeting. Our Board meetings are held every three weeks at the field house from 7:30 PM to approximately 9:30 PM. Please email ymonaco@optonline.net for the date of our next Board meeting.

Sincerely,



Anthony Monaco
President