



2019/2020 Thurmont Little League Report

Small Town Teams, Big League Dreams

TLL was ready for the Spring season. Planning completed, registrations received, evaluations held, teams determined, fields ready and practices started. Then, WHAM! All activities were suspended due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic.

On March 12, we announced that with the most recent guidance from Little League International and Maryland District 2 regarding the increasing spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), TLL baseball activities were suspended immediately until April 6. Five days later, Little League International extended the suspension of league activities through May 11. Federal and State guidance and direction began to be enforced, and regrettably, on May 18 the spring season was cancelled due to the continued orders on social gatherings, timing, potential player availability and the COVID-19 virus surveillance practices we would have to implement presenting significant challenges in playing baseball. It was hard, not only as Board members but also as fans of Little League Baseball to come to this decision. However, our first responsibility was to the safety and well-being of our players and TLL Baseball community.

Registrations, Sponsors, and Volunteers

Player registrations, teams, sponsors, and volunteers for the spring season were comprised of:

- 284 registrations encompassing
 - 9 T-ball teams
 - 9 Instructional teams
 - 7 Minor teams
 - 4 Major teams
 - 2 Intermediate teams
- TLL is proud to be a 100% volunteer organization with 125 TLL members volunteering for Board of Directors, Managers, Coaches, and Team Mom positions
- 41 Sponsors supporting TLL

Accomplishments

Even though the spring season was cancelled, there were numerous TLL operations, facilities, and activities accomplished with a multitude of community involvement and participation. Significant accomplishments made during the 2019/2020 season were:

- Launching the contest for a TLL tagline. 30 taglines were submitted with Ryan Tokar's submission of, "*Small Town Teams, Big League Dreams*" being selected as the tagline for TLL.
- Establishing a multi-year agreement with the Town of Emmitsburg for use of three baseball fields. Frank Davis, Town of Emmitsburg Commissioner was instrumental in getting the agreement in place and having the fields ready for play. TLL is committed to bringing Little League baseball back to Emmitsburg with more than just practices. TLL had over 50 games scheduled to be played in Emmitsburg, this season.
- Revised and updated the [TLL Constitution](#) (last update was in 2010).



- Increased use of social media (Facebook) for providing communication of events and league information to the TLL Baseball community and followers. TLL Facebook Page has over 2,300 followers and over 2,250-page likes
- Revised TLL website with new format and up-to-date information for players, parents, umpires, and coaches
- Participated with D2 and other leagues in Working Group to develop a “Return to Play” plan to allow TLL to have small group clinics, and be prepared for a Fall season
- Held “Sandlot/Pickup” games for all divisions for four weeks. Over 80 players participated.

Other accomplishments during the year were in the areas of Operations, Development and Training, Fundraising and Community.

Operational Accomplishments

- Amended the Board of Directors election month to align with start of the Fall Baseball season
- Revised and updated the [TLL By-laws](#)
- Developed 2020 budget
- Added stocking hats to Spirit-wear collection
- Painted the Clubhouse, and replaced older, worn chairs used in the Press Box
- Made repairs to the batting cage netting
- Designed, and made a sign for the complex (Installation delayed due to activity suspension)
- Installed lights in the field equipment shed
- Activated security cameras in clubhouse, concession stand
- Installed cubbies in the dugouts for placement of helmets, gloves, etc.
- Updated, submitted, and received approval of A Safety Awareness Program (ASAP) plan
- Held Minor and Major league player assessment clinics at Mount St Mary’s University

Player, Coach, Umpire Development and Training Accomplishments

- Collaborated with Mount St Mary’s Baseball team to conduct Winter clinics with 50 players registered.
- Coach’s clinic presented by Coach Franklin of Catoctin High School with over 25 attendees
- Promoted and established a second Intermediate team

Fundraisers Accomplishments

With the suspension of play, TLL was not able to have the annual Hit-A-Thon fundraiser which raises the most money for the league. The two other successful fundraisers this year were:

- Selling Business Discount Cards with 15 local businesses participating. Over 200 discount cards were purchased.
- Roy Rogers Event (25% of sales received), and over \$1,900 of clothing and discount cards were sold



Community Accomplishments

TLL receives much support from the community through donations, both monetary and volunteering of time, labor, and material to the league. TLL, as a part of the community strives to give-back. This year TLL was able to:

- Donate food items to the Thurmont Food Bank
- Donate to Blessing in a Backpack which provides snacks and personnel items for those in need
- Donate to CHS Mental Health Awareness Club
- Publish articles in Catocin Banner to keep all informed of TLL activities
- Participate in the Thurmont Main Street Center Christmas Tree display
- Provide gift cards to each graduating Senior CHS Baseball player
- Donated baseball registration fee to CYA Basketball for their fund-raising
- Coordinated community service activity between Potter Baseball and Town of Thurmont. Jeff Potter and his Baseball Players tour different towns to not only play baseball but also to perform service projects. This year they painted the exterior wall and shutters of the Thurmont Food Bank and put mulch around the building. TLL provided lunch to the team and adults,

Cancelled Scheduled Events

Unfortunately, because of the suspension of play TLL was not able to conduct many planned activities. Even though these activities were cancelled there was a lot of planning by individuals on the Board of Directors throughout the year. The cancelled events were:

- An exciting Open Day Ceremony
- Team and individual pictures
- Having an Ole Timers Baseball game and Kickball tournament in conjunction with [Potter Baseball](#)
- Participating in community-wide Easter egg hunt
- Annual Hit-A-Thon fundraiser
- Umpire clinic presented by TLL Umpire in Chief, Blaine Young
- Hosting the annual Challenger League Jamboree
- TLL Day at a Mount St Mary's baseball game

Early Fall Season

Restrictions were relaxed in June, and TLL was able to offer "Sandlot" games. These games continued for four weeks with 80+ players in attendance. Specific guidelines and rules had to be in place and were defined in the Return to Play plan.

Registrations for Fall season began on July 6th through July 24th. Practices started on July 27th and games began in August. There were 141 registrations encompassing teams of:

- 4 T-ball
- 4 Instructional
- 4 Minor
- 2 Major



- 1 Intermediate

Financial

The cancellation of the spring season created financial losses of approximately \$20,000 because of not having the Hit-A-Thon fundraiser and lack of proceeds from the concession stand. Additionally, \$11,800 in registration fees were refunded. TLL ended the 2019/2020 season with adequate resources in the bank for the start of the 2020/20201 season even with the refunding of registrations.

Board of Directors for 2019/2020 Season

The Board of Directors for the 2019/2020 season were:

President Keith Myers	VP, Intermediate Joe Wehage	Sponsorship Kathleen Davis	Field Maintenance PJ Nicholson
Vice President John Code	VP, Majors Brandon McQuay	Team Mom Coordinator Carrie Laird	Player Development Lane Strobel
Secretary Jon Barton	VP, Minors Jeremy Johnson	Event Planner Lindsay Tokar	Equipment Manager Joe Wehage
Treasurer Justus Yocum	VP, Instructional Joey Youngerman	Safety Officer Chris Morlan	Concessions Manager Jon Barton
Player Agent Jenn Cregger	VP, T-Ball Robbie Nash	Umpire-in-Chief Blaine Young	

Report Verification

This report has been verified by the President of Thurmont Little League.

X

Keith Myers
President