

HAYWARD LITTLE LEAGUE

Monthly Leadership Report July 2026

Championship Week

The 2026 Hayward Little League season concluded with successful Championship Games in both divisions. Championship Week was a great way to celebrate our players, coaches, volunteers, and families while recognizing the accomplishments of each team throughout the season.

Thanks to the generosity of Chippewa Valley Bank, all players and coaches received complimentary hot dogs and ice cream sandwiches during the Championship Games. When they learned we planned to offer discounted hot dogs, they generously stepped in and offered to sponsor the meals entirely. Their support allowed every player and coach to enjoy a meal together while celebrating the end of the season, and we are incredibly grateful for their continued investment in Hayward youth baseball.

Tournament Preparation

Preparation for the Hayward Summer Bash Tournament required a tremendous amount of volunteer effort.

On the Friday before the tournament, members of the Leadership Committee, parents, coaches, and volunteers spent the entire day preparing the complex for tournament play.

Projects completed included:

- Completely weed whacking and preparing Field 4, which was used for the Home Run Derby.
- Spraying the field to improve appearance and playing conditions.
- Cleaning fence lines.
- Cleaning underneath the bleachers.
- Cleaning spectator areas.
- Moving equipment and reorganizing tournament spaces.
- Preparing tournament signage.
- Preparing concession areas.
- Preparing the Home Run Derby layout.

One thing we have taken great pride in this season has been maintaining the appearance of our facilities. Countless hours have been spent mowing, trimming, weed whacking, maintaining fields, and making improvements to provide a quality experience for our players and visiting teams.

This year we also introduced a Tournament Information Packet for visiting teams and families.

After attending tournaments throughout the summer and in the past as parents over the years, we recognized that many tournaments discourage outside food and beverages. Rather than having families arrive unsure of costs or activities, we wanted to provide complete transparency before they arrived.

Our tournament packet included:

- Complete concession stand pricing
- Home Run Derby information
- Tournament activities
- Louisville Slugger bat raffle information
- 50/50 raffle information
- General tournament information

Our goal was to allow families to prepare financially before arriving while creating a welcoming and organized experience for every visiting team.

Hayward Summer Bash Tournament

The Hayward Summer Bash Tournament was an overwhelming success.

Although we had extremely hot temperatures throughout the weekend, the tournament ran smoothly!

Every member of our Leadership Committee volunteered during tournament weekend, regardless of whether they had a child participating in the tournament.

Members assisted with:

- Tournament operations
- Field preparation
- Home Run Derby
- Concessions
- Field prep/setup
- Concessions
- Raffle Sales
- Tournament setup
- Tournament cleanup
- General troubleshooting throughout the weekend

This level of commitment reflects exactly the type of leadership we hope to continue building within Hayward Little League!! It was great to have everyone there!

Home Run Derby

One of the biggest additions to this year's tournament was our Home Run Derby. The event exceeded expectations and quickly became one of the highlights of tournament weekend!

Four divisions were offered:

- Little Slugger
- U10
- U12
- Heavy Hitter (open to anyone older than U12)

A total of 66 Home Run Derby entries were sold. All four division champions were Hayward players.

Each champion received:

- A customized engraved wooden bat.
- A \$10 concession stand credit.

The event created a fun atmosphere throughout the tournament while giving players of all ages another opportunity to participate.

Tournament Awards

Tournament awards were presented as follows:

- First place teams received championship rings for each player.
- First place teams also received one team trophy.
- Second place teams received individual medals for each player.

The awards were very well received and helped recognize the accomplishments of every championship team, rings are new to this area and the kids loved them.

Tournament Fundraising

Several successful fundraising activities were held throughout the tournament weekend. One of the highlights was our raffle for a brand new 2027 Louisville Slugger Supra USSSA bat, one of the newest models released this summer.

This raffle would not have been possible without the relationship we have developed this season with the baseball department at Scheels. Through that relationship, we were able to purchase the bat at a substantial discount, allowing significantly more of the raffle proceeds to directly benefit Hayward Little League. We also conducted a 50/50 raffle throughout the tournament. Both raffle drawings were streamed live on Facebook. The Louisville Slugger bat winner was from Hurley. The 50/50 raffle winner was also from Hurley and received approximately \$380. Both fundraising activities were very successful and generated additional revenue for the league while creating excitement throughout tournament weekend.

Concessions

Concessions performed exceptionally well throughout tournament weekend. Sales remained strong throughout the event. This year we introduced specialty coffee drinks, which were extremely popular with families and spectators. Inventory was nearly depleted by the end of Saturday, requiring a complete restock before Sunday's games. The success of concessions would not have been possible without the many volunteers who donated their time throughout the weekend. The food was delicious and families were thrilled by the prices.

Blue Crew Umpire Appreciation

During Championship Week and tournament weekend we wanted to recognize the incredible group of youth umpires who served Hayward Little League throughout the 2026 season. Our Blue Crew consistently demonstrated professionalism, sportsmanship, maturity, and a positive attitude throughout the season. They represented Hayward Little League extremely well and played a major role in creating a positive experience for our players and families. Beginning during Championship Week and continuing throughout the Hayward Summer Bash Tournament, we invited families to contribute voluntary tips as part of our Blue Crew Umpire Appreciation initiative. Thanks to the generosity of our league families and tournament participants, we raised more than \$300 to be distributed directly to our youth umpires as an additional thank you for their countless hours and dedication throughout the season. Our Blue Crew truly set the standard this season, and we could not be more proud of the example they provided both on and off the field.

Coach Appreciation

Recognizing the dedication of our volunteer coaches was another priority as we concluded the season. As part of our end of season coach appreciation, each coach has received or will receive via mail \$20-\$30 in Hayward Chamber Bucks as a small token of appreciation for the countless hours they dedicated to our players and families throughout the season. Coach appreciation for the T Ball and Coach Pitch divisions has already been distributed by Danielle. Our coaches spend hundreds of volunteer hours each season preparing practices, coaching

games, communicating with families, maintaining equipment, and mentoring our players. We sincerely thank every coach for the positive impact they have made on Hayward Little League.

One Last Night at the Ballpark

Earlier this season, the Leadership Committee made the decision to replace the All Star Game with One Last Night at the Ballpark. This decision reflected the vision our leadership team established long before the season began. Rather than creating an event that recognized only a select group of players, we wanted to create an event that celebrated every player and every family in Hayward Little League (majors/minors for this year). Our goal was to bring the entire league together as one Hayward Little League. As players grow older, divisions change and teams merge. We want our athletes to already know one another, encourage one another, and take pride in representing the same community. One Last Night at the Ballpark was created to strengthen those relationships while celebrating an incredible season together.

The event included:

- A "concession" meal.
- A giant family wiffle ball game.
- Wiffle ball bat raffles for players and siblings.
- Community among families from every division.

A generous league parent sponsored all of the food for the evening, allowing us to provide dinner at no cost to our league families while buying out our concessions stand. Our original plan also included showing The Sandlot on Field 1 using a large outdoor movie screen generously loaned to us by Arianna at The Lot. Unfortunately, severe weather forced us to cancel only the movie portion of the evening. Our Leadership Committee plans to possibly reschedule The Sandlot Movie Night before the start of the school year with popcorn and refreshments so families can still enjoy that experience together. Even though the movie was canceled, One Last Night at the Ballpark was still a tremendous success and accomplished exactly what we hoped it would by bringing our league together as one community. A small amount of concession inventory remains following the event. The remaining inventory will be used during our upcoming Community Q&A and Field Cleanup Day planned for late August. Some of the sports drinks and chips were also sent with a player to a tournament last weekend (not associated with Hayward Little League but includes our players).

Leadership Committee Election

At the request of the Hayward Sports Center Board, Hayward Little League conducted a Leadership Committee election. Before creating the election, we researched governance and voting structures used by numerous Little League organizations across the country. After reviewing several different approaches, we determined that allowing up to two voting parents or guardians per player family, regardless of the number of registered children, was the fairest and most equitable voting structure.

The election remained open for five days using Google Forms, following Carrie's approval to utilize Google Forms in place of SurveyMonkey. The election was distributed through multiple communication channels to ensure every eligible family had an opportunity to participate.

Distribution included:

- Email to every registration email address on file.
- SportsEngine.
- Facebook.
- Facebook Stories.

Election Results

- Total Responses: **54**
- Yes: **41**
- No: **13**

The proposed Leadership Committee was approved with 75.9% approval among votes cast. A copy of the informational PDF distributed with the election will be attached to this report for reference. The document outlines the proposed Leadership Committee structure, committee responsibilities, governance model, and the reasoning behind the proposal. A significant amount of time was dedicated to researching Little League governance models, developing a structure tailored specifically to Hayward Little League, and creating the election materials so families could make an informed voting decision. Carrie, our leadership team, and Tom Duffy have access to the complete election results, including each individual response, for recordkeeping purposes. **The Leadership Committee respectfully requests that individual voting responses remain confidential in order to preserve the integrity of the election process and the privacy of our league families.**

Community Communication

One of the goals of the Leadership Committee moving forward is to improve communication, transparency, and accessibility for all Hayward Little League families. Beginning this year, we plan to hold two Community Q&A Sessions each year, one prior to the spring season in March and one following the season in August.

These sessions will provide parents and families an opportunity to:

- Ask questions.
- Share ideas and feedback.
- Learn about league operations.
- Better understand league finances and planning.
- Stay informed on projects and upcoming initiatives.

Our first Community Q&A Session is planned for August and will be combined with a league Field Cleanup Day. The date will be announced once finalized. We hope these meetings become another opportunity to strengthen relationships between families, volunteers, coaches, and league leadership while continuing to improve transparency and communication.

Financial Management

Following Championship Week and the Hayward Summer Bash Tournament, a substantial deposit was made into the Hayward Little League account. Throughout the season, the Leadership Committee also created a shared financial tracking spreadsheet beginning with the league's opening account balance in Jan 2026.

Our goal was to create one centralized location documenting league finances for financial records and greater transparency.

To date, the spreadsheet includes:

- Sponsorship income.
- Known league expenditures.
- Tournament fundraising.
- League income currently documented.
- Known concession activity.
- Equipment purchases.
- Operational expenses.

At this time, the remaining items still being reconciled include:

- Irrigation parts and maintenance expenses.
- Ron's Portable Septic invoices.
- Umpire payments.
- Utility bills.
- The first concession deposits of the season.
- The final concession deposits of the season.

The remaining concession deposits have been requested.

Once these remaining items have been entered, we believe the league's financial records for the 2026 season will be substantially complete. In the interest of transparency, view only access to the financial spreadsheet is available to Carrie, Tom Duffy, members of the Leadership Committee, and any additional league representatives who would like to review the financial records. Our goal is to ensure league finances remain organized, transparent, and easily accessible.

Financial Controls

The Leadership Committee has established spending authorization guidelines for league purchases. These spending limits identify when Leadership Committee approval is required before purchases are made requiring a majority vote. This is intended to help provide additional financial accountability, consistency, and transparency moving forward.

Organizational Development

One of the largest accomplishments this season has taken place behind the scenes. As our Leadership Committee became more involved in day to day league operations. Throughout the season, our team has worked to identify, organize, and begin documenting these responsibilities so they can be shared among future volunteers rather than relying on a very small number of people.

These responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Sponsorship management.
- Tournament planning.
- Field preparation and maintenance.
- Equipment management.
- Concession operations.
- Financial tracking.
- Volunteer coordination.
- Communication.
- Scheduling.
- Championship events.
- Community events.
- Coach appreciation.
- Umpire appreciation.
- Operational planning.

Documenting these responsibilities will allow future volunteers to step into clearly defined roles while providing continuity from season to season. Our goal is to build an organization that continues to improve regardless of leadership changes.

League Culture and Community

We believe youth baseball should be about far more than baseball. Our goal is to celebrate every player and every family in our league and continue building one Hayward Little League. The Leadership Committee believes our responsibility extends far beyond teaching baseball. Our vision is to create an environment where every child feels valued, continues to grow, develops confidence, learns teamwork and sportsmanship, builds lifelong friendships, develops

a love for baseball, develops a love for sports, and develops a love for the Hayward community. We believe success is measured by much more than wins and losses. Our goal is to build something **bigger than the baseball field**. We want Hayward Little League to be a place where children create memories, families build friendships, volunteers feel appreciated, and our entire community comes together through youth baseball.

What's Next?

With the 2026 season now complete, the Leadership Committee's priorities moving forward include:

- Organizing the newly approved Leadership Committee.
- Holding our first Community Q&A Session and Field Cleanup Day.
- Completing reconciliation of the 2026 financial records.
- Continuing development of league policies and operational documentation.
- Expanding volunteer opportunities within the league.
- Continuing to strengthen relationships with our sponsors and community partners.
- Beginning to work on the 2027 season.
- Expanding sponsorships
- Updating and enhancing facility

Closing

The past month marked the successful conclusion of the 2026 season while simultaneously laying the foundation for the future of Hayward Little League.

Championship Week, the Hayward Summer Bash Tournament, the Home Run Derby, One Last Night at the Ballpark, the Leadership Committee election, the continued development of financial systems, governance, organizational documentation, and league policies all represent significant progress toward building a sustainable, transparent, and community focused organization. While we are proud of what our players accomplished on the field this season, we are equally proud of what our volunteers accomplished behind the scenes. Countless volunteer hours were dedicated to preparing fields, maintaining facilities, organizing tournaments, staffing concessions, raising funds, supporting our umpires and coaches, improving league operations, documenting responsibilities, strengthening finances, and planning for the future of Hayward Little League.

We believe Hayward Little League is about much more than baseball. It is about building character. It is about building confidence. It is about building friendships. It is about creating opportunities. It is about teaching teamwork and sportsmanship. It is about bringing families together. It is about strengthening our community so all sports can be strengthened together. Most importantly, it is about creating an environment where every child feels valued, supported, and excited to return each season.

Our vision is, and will continue to be, building something **bigger than the baseball field** while creating one Hayward Little League that our players, families, volunteers, and community can be proud of for many years to come.

The Leadership Committee sincerely thanks every volunteer, coach, umpire, sponsor, parent, player, and community member whose generosity, dedication, and support made the 2026 season possible. We look forward to continuing to build on that momentum as we begin planning for the 2027 season.

Leadership Structure

Chair/Director of Baseball Operations: Cory Andraschko

Vice Chair/Director of Baseball Development: Kyle Cummings

Treasurer/Directors of Finance & Sponsorships: CJ & Brooke Damaske

Director of T-Ball & Coach Pitch: Danielle Wheeler

Director of Operations Support: Dusty Lyle

Director of Administration, Communications & Community Engagement: Lisa Andraschko