

PRESS RELEASE

Office of Sullivan County Mayor Richard S. Venable
October 30, 2025

Volunteers needed for Blountville Little League

Due to a recent call for help on social media, Sullivan County Mayor Richard S. Venable today reaffirmed the county's established commitment to working with members of the community interested in making sure Blountville Little League continues as an organization.

On Wednesday, October 29, 2025, a post appeared on Blountville Little League's Facebook page indicating the organization's status is in question.

In the post, Blountville Little League President David Ewing Jr. state the organization is in "dire" need from the community and he must find a board of directors and coaches in less than three weeks or what has been the Blountville Little League's territory is at risk of being split between neighboring leagues.

"We join Mr. Ewing in calling for members of the community to come forward and provide leadership for Blountville Little League," Venable said Thursday. "I'm sharing this message with local media outlets in hope of garnering as much public attention to this need as possible. Time is of the essence, according to Mr. Ewing's post on social media yesterday. And I hope our local media outlets will help raise more public awareness on this need for board leadership, coaches, volunteers and most importantly, players to keep Blountville Little League alive."

Ewing, in the Facebook post, stated he must have a board in place by November 16 to be stave off possible cession of territory to neighboring leagues. That's the date, Ewing said, of a Little League Tennessee District 5 meeting at which Blountville's status will be discussed and potentially subject to a vote.

Ewing also stated in the post that by November 16 he "must have assurances of field availability" for the league's use during the 2026 season.

"I was most surprised by that," Venable said. "I know when Mr. Ewing asked last week about completion of the new athletic fields at The Blountville Campus property, county staff informed him the project is right on schedule. And, there, in his Facebook post he himself said the contract for the project was signed February 6 and has a 245-day completion period."

Venable also noted that in addition to two brand new baseball fields set for completion Christmas week, the county already has made improvements to a softball field on the same property.

“Based on communications last week with Mr. Ewing, county staff believed Blountville Little League was ready and able to begin playing on the new fields at The Blountville Campus this coming spring,” Venable said. “We hope that still is the case and encourage others in the community to consider volunteering for the league’s board and/or to be coaches. We want Blountville Little League to be among the community organizations that make use of the great investment the county has made in these new fields.”

Venable said county staff have been working on an updated user agreement for organizations who wish to reserve and use county-owned properties. The agreement used in the past did not, of course, have the brand-new facilities.

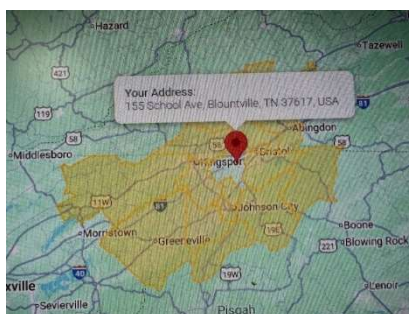
Organizations using county-owned properties must provide proof of insurance. Longstanding county policy requires all non-profit organizations receiving county support to provide annual financial reports.

Ewing has yet to provide Blountville Little League’s financial reports.

Ten days ago, Ewing contacted county staff regarding a query from the county about forming a Little League organization to serve the Blountville area. That query was the result of county staff having noticed the official Little League (that’s a copyrighted name, for the record) website showed no league or active charter for the Blountville area.

Ewing told the county he was still Blountville Little League president and the organizations’ charter with Little League had been “put on ice” when the then-board opted to suspend their operations during the 2025 season as work progressed on the new county fields.

As of Thursday afternoon, Little League website continues to show a hole in the middle of Sullivan County and would-be players from within that hole are directed to try one of multiple other Little League affiliates within a 25-mile radius, including Bristol, Tennessee and Gray and Johnson City in Washington County, Tennessee.



<https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/league-finder/>

Attached you will find a copy of a letter Venable wrote to Ewing regarding the latter's Facebook post.

Interested in Serving on the Board?

Ewing provided the following regarding what is required to help:

Overview of a Little League Board of Directors

A Little League Board of Directors is a group of elected volunteers responsible for managing and overseeing the operations of a local Little League organization. They ensure that the league runs smoothly and adheres to the rules and regulations set by Little League International.

General Duties

- Conduct the affairs of the league and execute established policies.
- Present reports on the league's condition at annual meetings.
- Communicate with members about important matters and suggestions for improvement.

Position Responsibilities

- President Provides leadership, oversees operations, and represents the league in external communications.
- Vice President Assists the president and presides in their absence; may manage specific divisions.
- Secretary Maintains records, documents meeting minutes, and manages communication with members.
- Treasurer Manages finances, prepares budgets, and oversees all financial transactions.
- Player Agent Conducts player tryouts, manages player selection, and ensures eligibility.
- Safety Officer Ensures safety protocols are followed and promotes a safe environment for players and volunteers.

Membership and Elections

Board members are typically elected by the adult members of the league during an annual meeting. Each position usually serves a one-year term, and there are no permanent or "legacy" positions. This structure encourages active participation and accountability among members.

To volunteer to serve Blountville Little League or for more information contact:
president@blountvillell.org