



Tournament softball is a commitment. Playing for a WAC team means that your player will have 2-3 practices a week, play multiple tournaments in the fall and spring, and have plenty of opportunities to compete against teams from Iowa and surrounding states. Playing for WAC will be a rewarding experience. We look forward to seeing you out on the field!

## **How are head coaches selected?**

- There are a number of ways head and assistant coaches are selected for a WAC team:
  - During the registration process
  - Parent survey
  - Social media posts
  - Word of mouth
- New head coaches often ask to be the head coach for a certain age division. It's very likely the head coach has a daughter who plays. The WAC board discusses new head coaches and determines if that individual is a good fit.
- Current head coaches will be re-evaluated by the WAC board after a full season has completed.
- Coaches go through background checks and are registered with the USSSA.

## **How are assistant coaches selected?**

- The head coach makes this determination based on his interaction with the team families. Parents are often asked to help out at practices and ultimately become assistant coaches who help manage the team during tournament play and practice.
- The WAC board leaves assistant coaches up to the head coach to determine.

## How does the WAC tryout process work?

### New players:

- New players will register on our website (wacsoftball.club) and answer a few questions about your playing experience.
- New players will be evaluated on a number of skills including hitting, throwing, catching fly balls, running bases, and more.
- New players will be graded just like all existing WAC players on a grading scale.
- New players will then be ranked based on their evaluation score.
- New (and existing) players will be evaluated by WAC board members and current WAC coaches. Evaluators will be grading age groups that they are not affiliated with (i.e. a 10U coach will not evaluate the 10U division).

### Current players:

- WAC head coaches will provide the board with written evaluations of current players on their rosters. The board will use this information in the selection process and remain in contact with the head coach throughout this process.
- Current WAC players will be required to tryout each year.
- Current WAC players evaluations will include in-season information provided by the head coach and tryout results.

## How does the WAC team formation process work?

In general, the WAC board first looks for how many pitchers and catchers each age division has available. From there, how many coaches do we have that are willing to volunteer their time? Once those two things are established teams will begin to fill in around these key positions.

### Age Group:

- Your players age classification is determined by your players age prior to December 31, 2023.
- If your player turns 10 on or before December 31, 2023, that player will tryout at the 10U level.
- Important note! There will be times when a player has skills beyond their actual age group and can request to tryout at a higher age division.
- Per USSSA rules, if teams are registered as odd age teams (i.e. 9,11,13U) and are a 9B team, 9B teams are no longer allowed to play 10C. They must play 10B or above. With that, the WAC board will look to fill the even age divisions (i.e. 8,10,12,14U) first before looking at odd age divisions.

### Team Structure:

- Teams will be formed with players of similar skill level.
- For example, if the 12U division has 10 “A” level players identified from evaluations, a 12A team will be formed. If the next 10 players are identified as “B” level players, a 12B team will be formed. If the next 10 players are identified as “C” level players, a 12C team will be formed.
- The WAC board will have all available data compiled at tryouts and from head coaches, and will make the final decision on teams.

## **Is there travel?**

- Most tournaments that WAC teams register for are located in the Des Moines metro.
- Head coaches and families are more than welcome to travel outside of the Des Moines metro to compete.
- Iowa City, Dubuque, Davenport, Burlington, Kansas City, and Omaha are all fun places to spend the weekend and play. Many of our teams travel to KC to play in USSSA sanctioned events.

## **How many seasons are there?**

- There is a Fall and Spring season.
- Teams are formed by July 1 and can start competing as early as August and finish in late October (Fall season). Spring season tournaments begin in late April and end in mid-late June.
- Teams may also compete in Winter indoor tournaments as they so choose!

## **When and how many practices can we expect?**

- Once teams are formed the WAC board will ask each head coach to survey their families on best nights to practice.
- Each team will get two outdoor practice times and one indoor per week.
- Head coaches may choose not to use their indoor time and instead rent a field to be outside.

## **Will we practice in the Winter?**

- Yes! WAC has an indoor facility where each team will get 2 time slots a week to practice inside during the winter.
- Winter practices typically start right after the first of the year.

## **Do we get a jersey?**

- Yes! Two jerseys will be provided. Families will be required to provide pants, socks and a belt.