



# Waukee Athletic Club

**Parent Guidebook (Fall 2023 – Spring 2024)**

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# President's Letter

**Board President - Chris Crawford  
(June 2023 - May 2025)**

Families -

If you are receiving this message, you are either a current player or participated in our tryouts. From all of us in the WAC organization - THANK YOU. We had a record 206 players at tryouts, and 90% live in the Waukee Community School District! Way to show up, Waukee!

Back in March of 2006, there was a brave group of parents who started an organization called the Warrior Athletic Club. Enrollment in the Waukee Community School District during the 2006-2007 school year was 5,096 students. As of the 2022-2023 school year, enrollment has risen to 12,711: 10 elementaries, 2 middle schools, 2 8/9 schools, and 2 high schools. Wow! Massive growth in the WCSD since the inception of WAC! It's incredible to think of the growth our community has had over the last 17 years. No way could the founding members of WAC have prepared themselves for the explosion of growth we have seen. It is, however, an important point to make that WAC has remained strong since 2006 and continues to move forward and adapt with the growing district and community. Not many non-profit sport organizations can say they have weathered all the storms over a 17 year period. WAC families, you should be extremely proud of this! Congratulations!

In November of 2021, the Warrior Athletic Club went through a transformation to become the Waukee Athletic Club. With the completion of the new Northwest High School, it was important for WAC to adapt to this change. We needed to ensure that WAC represented the Waukee Community School District, which now includes two high school feeder systems. Our mission hasn't changed since 2006:

***The Waukee Athletic Club (WAC) mission is to develop a championship girl's softball program that encourages participation, excellence, sportsmanship, pride and fun. We will accomplish and sustain this through player, coach, and facility development as well as fundraising and marketing with the assistance and cooperation of the parents and community.***

As your new club president, I want everyone to know a bit about my family and me. I'm Chris Crawford, husband to Lauren and father to Quinn and Charley, who both play for WAC. I work for Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance as their Treasury Manager, and my wife is a 5th grade teacher at Grant Ragan Elementary, where Quinn and Charley attend. My wife and I grew up in Conrad, Iowa, a small 1A school district in north central Iowa, and we both played multiple sports. I went on to Central College and played golf while Lauren attended the University of Iowa. We moved to Waukee in 2011.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all our families. Thank you for allowing our club the opportunity to be a part of your young lady's softball future. Whether you are a young athlete playing on our 8U team or a more experienced player on our 14U, thank you for being a part of the WAC family. If I had the statistics to back up what I'm about to say, I think we would all be blown away, but we have had some incredibly strong softball players start and finish with WAC. Many of these players have gone on to play high school ball as well as college. Think about the impact your organization has had on these young players. To all the volunteer coaches, thank you! Thank you for being one of the first true mentors these young ladies have ever had in their lives. One of my favorite quotes comes from the late football coach Ed Thomas from Aplington-Parkersburg. He said, "If all that I have taught you is how to block and tackle, then I have failed as a coach." WAC coaches, you play one of the most important roles in our players' lives. You are not only teaching the game of softball but valuable life lessons on how to deal with stressful situations, attitudes, fear, and losing, to name a few. Your impact on these young ladies goes beyond just softball. For that, I thank you.

It's hard to believe that the 2022-2023 season is almost complete! We will have additional communication after the season is over with the successes of the club. Looking forward to having lots of positive information to share!

One final announcement...and it's BIG! As WAC continues to adapt to the ever evolving school and club ball arena, WAC would like to formally introduce the WAC Wolves and WAC Warriors program. This new program is being supported by our school district's two varsity head coaches...Coach Eby and Coach Pals. Here is a joint statement from them:

**"The Waukee Athletic Club has supported the Waukee Community School District since its inception in 2006. The growth in the WCSD over the last few years has given rise to two high schools with two feeder systems. We look forward to seeing how the new WAC Warriors and Wolves program expands. This program will be beneficial for both schools and support the WCSD by keeping top talent local."**

There you have it, families! We have the support of both head coaches at the top of our schools! What better way to support our schools, community, and club by forming teams at 14U by high school. These young ladies will grow together before they even get to their high school team.

Offers will begin going out at the end of this week. Coaches and your entire roster will be listed. We want to provide full transparency on who your coach is as well as who you are accepting an offer to play with. This is a change, and one we feel brings more clarity to the team formation process. Please note that rosters are not final until all players accept and will change if a player declines and needs to be replaced. Once we have a complete roster, we will send a follow-up to the team with the final version.

Chris Crawford - WAC President

# Club Purpose & Mission

- The purpose of WAC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, is to provide a nonprofit, public, educational program for girls 18 and under to play softball in an organized, team-oriented program and to compete at levels consistent with their individual interests and abilities. WAC endeavors to develop softball skills, teamwork, and sporting behavior among all players for the betterment of their physical and social well being. WAC strives to provide young people and interested adults the opportunity to develop coaching, managing, and other softball leadership skills. WAC will field teams at the recreational level and also the competitive level appropriate to the skill development of the player. WAC shall promote positive public participation in and awareness of the sport of softball by educating and involving players, parents, coaches, umpires, and other individuals in its local footprint. WAC will encourage all players living within the Waukee Community School District (WCSD) boundaries to participate as well as, per board approval, those residing outside of the WCSD who strive for championship level softball.
- The Waukee Athletic Club (WAC) mission is to develop a championship girl's softball program that encourages participation, excellence, sportsmanship, pride and fun. We will accomplish and sustain this through player, coach, and facility development as well as fundraising and marketing with the assistance and cooperation of the parents and community.

# Club Board & Club Contact Info

Position	Name	Term	Email
President	Chris Crawford	Jun '23 – May '25	<a href="mailto:wacsoftballpresident@gmail.com">wacsoftballpresident@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Dana Owens	Jun '23 – May '25	<a href="mailto:wacsoftballvp@gmail.com">wacsoftballvp@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Brian Schueller	Jan '21 – TBD	<a href="mailto:wacsoftballtreasurer@gmail.com">wacsoftballtreasurer@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Jessica Richter	Jan '22 – TBD	<a href="mailto:waukeesb@gmail.com">waukeesb@gmail.com</a>
Communications	Tony Giudicessi	Nov '22 – TBD	<a href="mailto:wacsoftballcomm@gmail.com">wacsoftballcomm@gmail.com</a>
Facilities & Equipment	Layne Gronau	Aug '22 – TBD	<a href="mailto:wacsoftballfacilities@gmail.com">wacsoftballfacilities@gmail.com</a>
Age Director 8U	Kathy Vandeventer	May '23 – TBD	<a href="mailto:wacsoftball8u@gmail.com">wacsoftball8u@gmail.com</a>
Age Director 10U	Kevin Otten	May '23 – TBD	<a href="mailto:wacsoftball10u@gmail.com">wacsoftball10u@gmail.com</a>
Age Director 12U	Sara Velander	May '23 – TBD	<a href="mailto:wacsoftball12@gmail.com">wacsoftball12@gmail.com</a>
Age Director 14U	Mike Welsch	May '23 – TBD	<a href="mailto:wacsoftball14@gmail.com">wacsoftball14@gmail.com</a>

# Social Media & Sites to Follow

## Follow these Pages & Sites:

- WAC – Waukee Fastpitch: <https://www.facebook.com/WaukeeSoftball>
- WAC Softball Family Page (Private Group) – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wacparentgroup>
- WAC Instagram Page @wac\_softball – [https://instagram.com/wac\\_softball?igshid=ZWQyN2ExYTkwZQ==](https://instagram.com/wac_softball?igshid=ZWQyN2ExYTkwZQ==)
- Iowa Fastpitch Softball Teams – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/iowaFastpitch>
- Central Iowa Sports - <https://centraliowasports.com/> and on Facebook - [https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=central iowa sports](https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=central+iowa+sports)
- USSSA Site/App - <https://usssa.com/home/>
- Rainout Line Site/App - <https://rainoutline.com/>

## Club Website:

- <https://www.wacsoftball.club/>

Find the following on our website:

- [Board of Directors](#)
- [By-Laws](#)
- [Team & Coach Lists](#)
- [Practice Schedules](#)
- [Hitting Facility Membership Info](#)
- [Hitting Facility Reservations](#)
- [Club Sponsors and Donors](#)

# Finances

## Board Treasurer - Brian Schueller (January 2021 - TBD)

### Where do your annual dues go?

- Tournaments (50% of annual club budget)
- Facilities (25%)
- Uniforms (5%)
- Insurance & Administrative Costs (10%)
- Equipment (10%)

### Where do the fundraising dollars go?

- Special Projects
- Larger ticket equipment items
- Leftover funds help keep your annual dues lower

### Why are full dues collected prior to spring season?

- WAC has a Team Acceptance Fee due in July to secure a spot on a team (approximately \$500, going towards full season dues).
- A second invoice will be issued for the 2023 - 2024 fall and spring season on October 1, 2023, and due by October 17, 2023. This invoice will be approximately 50% of the remaining balance of club dues and tournament fees.
  - E.g., \$1,000 club dues + \$400 tournament fees = \$1,400 total cost.
  - Less \$500 deposit = remaining balance of \$900
  - Invoice 2 = \$450
- A third invoice will be issued for the 2023 - 2024 fall and spring season on February 1, 2024, and due by February 15, 2024. This invoice will be for the remaining balance of club dues and tournament fees.
  - Please note that if teams decide to play extra tournaments, then there could be a final true up invoice near the end of Spring 2024. Coaches will discuss this with families to ensure everyone is comfortable and informed.
- The WAC season runs from August through the following July. The club needs to ensure a full-year investment in the club. While collecting dues upfront is typical for other sports clubs in the area, we understand this can still be a burden to some families. If you need assistance in spreading out your payments over time, the club Treasurer can help set up a payment plan with you.

# Sponsorship & Donations

**WAC is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit - Volunteer Run Organization**

**As a Non-Profit we rely on the generosity of our Club Sponsors and Donors in addition to member dues to fund the organization. We are also grateful to our volunteer Board, Coaches, Assistants, Committees and Parents.**

- **Check out <https://www.wacsoftball.club/sponsors/> to learn more.**
- **Please reach out to [waukeesb@gmail.com](mailto:waukeesb@gmail.com) to discuss further.**
- **You can also donate directly to WAC via the Team Snap App.**
- **Employers can also support WAC through their matching gifts programs.**
  - **Over \$16,000 have been donated to WAC through company matching gifts programs.**
  - **Spotlight on Companies that have matched donations to WAC: Apple, Global Atlantic, John Deere, Principal, Wells Fargo and Wellmark.**



# WAC Bylaws

**Updated April 2023**

<https://www.wacsoftball.club/by-laws/>

# USSSA Governance/Rules

[https://usssa.com/docs/Fastpitch/Fastpitch\\_Rules.pdf](https://usssa.com/docs/Fastpitch/Fastpitch_Rules.pdf)

# WAC Team Formations

- **WAC forms teams 1 time per year through a tryout and evaluation process. Evaluations include tryout (all players new and current club players) and game/practice performance (current club players). Tryouts will evaluate player abilities in the following areas: Pitching/Catching (if applicable), hitting, base running, fielding (infield & outfield) and throwing.**
- **Teams will be formed for a Fall/Spring Season, for example Fall 2023 (August) through Summer (June 2024). Teams do not often change per season.**
- **Teams are formed according to USSSA age guidelines. See USSSA page for details.**
- **Every effort is made to form teams with players of similar skill/developmental level.**
- **Our aim is to field multiple competitive and developmental teams within each age division. See A/B and C classifications within USSSA guidelines and WAC Bylaws.**

# Glossary of Terms

**League Play** - League play is designed for teams and coaches to get their season started, whether it's moving up to a new age class, trying out new positions for players or just extra reps for players. Leagues are designed to be a relaxed, competitive and fun environment for all teams. Most leagues are played in Central Iowa locations.

**Tournament Play** - Tournaments are designed to maximize competition within your age class. Tournaments can be 1, 2 or 3 days in length and generally include multiple games per day. Tournaments will have a game guarantee to give teams an idea of the minimum number of games being played prior to elimination. Tournaments are generally played in Central Iowa, however teams have the option to travel outside the metro in partnership with WAC and team families.

**Pool Play** - Pool games are the first round of competition in tournaments. Generally a team plays 3-4 pool games to identify seeding and placement for bracket play. Pool placements are generally based on prior team performance and USSSA rankings.

**Bracket Play** - Generally the last day of a tournament, bracket play is used to determine winners and placements based on performance within a tournament. It can be winner take all to move into further rounds of bracket play similar to NCAA March Madness. Some larger tournaments will have consolation rounds when a team loses in bracket play.

**USSSA** — United States Specialty Sports Association is the governing body for fastpitch softball in the USA and all WAC teams. Download their App to follow your team's progress in tournaments and upcoming game schedule. <https://usssa.com/home/>

**CIS** — Central Iowa Sports is a local organization who's Executive Director is also the USSSA Director for Iowa. CIS plans, organizes, markets and directs most local tournaments in Central Iowa. They have a player recognition program called MVP and another called All State which are additional ad hoc tournaments for selected players for a fee. See CIS website for more details. <https://centraliowasports.com/>

**Bat Types** - All WAC players must use a USSSA stamped fastpitch bat for play. Bats can be made from the following materials: composite (best), hybrid (good), or aluminum (entry). Most players who play for a B Class team swing a composite bat. Many players at the 8U level swing an aluminum bat. For more information on bat materials, sizing and drop weight, consult your local sports store.

**GameChanger App** - Allows for electronic scoring and video streaming. Relatives, grandparents and former teammates love following your player/team's action. Most club teams support each other this way. See and share highlight clips and stats for your player post game too! The basic app is free and the more enhanced pay option is at parent/coach expense.

# Schedules

## How to find when and where you play

- Schedules with start times and locations are updated via the USSSA website and USSSA app “generally” on Mondays prior to a tournament.
- Coaches who use GameChanger app load locations and arrival time into the app. The app allows you to RSVP who will be coming players and family. Please also message your coach if your player will not be attending.
- Coaches align with families before the fall and again before the spring season which tournaments the team will play in. This process works to maximize roster participation.
- WAC hosts a tournament, “The WAC Classic at Triumph Park” in May. All A/B USSSA Class teams are strongly encouraged to play.

# Player Equipment (Required - Parent Provided)

## **Helmet** — Model with a face mask.

*If you are considering a new batting helmet please note, upcoming, next year for the Fall 2024/Spring 2025 Season we will be moving to a standard club helmet color of solid matte white. Below are links to examples that are in compliance:*

<https://www.scheels.com/p/mizuno-f6-solid-fastpitch-softball-batting-helmet/41969-380395.html?cgid=softball-protective-gear#start=6>  
<https://easton.rawlings.com/product/A168552.html>

## **Bat** — USSSA Stamp Required for play in fastpitch.

**Fielding Face Mask** — *If you are considering a new batting fielding mask please note, upcoming, next year for the Fall 2024/Spring 2025 Season we will be moving to a standard club fielding mask color of black.*

**Fielding Glove** — See your local sporting goods store for guidance on glove sizing.

## **Equipment Bag**

## **Cleats**

**Note** — Players must remove all jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings for play in USSSA sanctioned events. These items are not allowed during games. See Section 2.5 of USSSA Rules for specific details on what is allowed.

**Team Snap App** — App used for club communication and payments.

## **Player Equipment (Additional Options - Parent Provided)**

**Composite Bat** — USSSA Stamp Required for play in fastpitch. Composite bats are suggested, but not required, for play on A/B Class Team.

**Batting Gloves** — Suggested, but not required based on player preference.

**Recommended Accessories** — Water bottle, sunglasses, softball (11” for 8U-10U or 12” for 12U-Up), sunscreen, bug spray, cooling towel and eye black.

**First Baseman’s Mitt** — If preferred by players who play 1st Base.

**Catcher’s Gear** — Shin guards, chest protector, mask, catcher’s mitt are suggested, but not required for regular catchers. The club does provide a set for each team’s shared use during practices and games.

**GameChanger App**

# Player Uniform

## Club Provided

- Two jerseys are provided by the club each year, typically one sleeved & one sleeveless.

## Parent Provided

- Alternative 3rd Uniform (Optional)
- Softball pants
- Softball belt and softball socks
  - Colors/Styles for pants, belt and socks will typically be coordinated by coaches with families for each team.
- Undershirts for cold weather.
- Pullovers/Jackets

## WAC Logo Fan Gear

- WAC logo apparel is available for purchase. 3-4 times per year we have a full store. On demand we have embroidered options.
  - <https://waukeeyrawof.itemorder.com/shop/home/>



# Spectator Gear — Helpful Suggestions

- **Foldable Chair**
- **Foldable Wagon**
- **Warmers (hand/feet) for players and fans during cold weather**
- **Tailgating tents, sport umbrellas, weather pods for sun and weather protection**
- **Sunscreen and bug spray**
- **Stadium blanket**

# Coaches Gear (Provided)

- **Bucket of 24 balls**
- **Scorebook (1)**
- **Lineup Cards (60)**
- **Team Snap App** - Free App used by Club for Communication and Payments
- **Hitting Net**
- **Catcher's Gear (Club owned - Helmet, Chest Protector, and Shin Guards provided)**

# Coaches Gear (Optional Additions)

- **Magnetic (or dry erase) Lineup Board for dugout**
- **GameChanger App** - The basic app is free and there is a more enhanced pay option is at parent/coach expense. Fence mounts and streaming from phone or camera is optional using parent/coach owned equipment.
- **Hit Stick**
- **Hitting Tee**
- **Heavy Balls / Plyo Balls**
- **Wiffle Balls**
- **Speaker for warmup music**
- **Wristbands (if used) for pitching, hitting and base running)**
- **Wagon**

# Coaches Note

Coaches should recruit parents to help out with practice and game day activities. Parents should volunteer to support their team when asked. Someone stepping up to help with scoring on GameChanger or running the GameChanger video will ease the burden on coaches. Someone in charge of the scorebook/lineup card exchange with the opponent also helps ease the burden. A parent can be in charge of the team banner to hang on the dugouts at games. Another may have a music playlist for a speaker (be sure to adhere to facility/complex rules on volume and content).

Practices and game warm ups are most successful when many hands are willing to pitch in. Having a third base coach, first base coach, dugout coach on game day is a minimum of three volunteers/coaches. Another volunteer or two for running drills is typically welcome. Please work with your coaches to see what they need help with!

# Club Kickoff

Each year WAC has a Club Kickoff event in August to introduce players to their teams and coaches. Additionally, it's a great chance to meet your WAC Board of Directors, meet local vendors and have a good time. Date, Time and Location of the WAC Club Kickoff will be communicated through Team Snap and the WAC Family Page on Facebook.

# Lessons & Instruction

As your player grows to love the game of softball you may be interested in individual instruction or lessons for your player. Many club players utilize local professionals to provide pitching, catching, hitting and fielding instruction. Additional instruction can be a great way to take your player's skills to the next level whether developing to more skilled or skilled to elite. WAC does not endorse any individual instructors or businesses. However the WAC Family Page on Facebook is a great place to start your search, seeking input from other club families on their experiences.

# Club Photos

Each year WAC partners with a local photographer to take photos of your player which will be available for purchase. Player photos will be edited together to form a team banner which will be displayed on your team's dugout during games. Player and team images may be used for social media and marketing purposes per the release signed during team formations.

Coaches please send the Communications Director a shoutout post 1-2 times per tournament to celebrate team/individual success and share the story of your team. If you prefer, you are also welcome to create posts of your own to share on the WAC Family Facebook group.

For any questions please contact our Communications Director at [wacsoftballcomm@gmail.com](mailto:wacsoftballcomm@gmail.com).

# WAC Logo Merchandise

Each year WAC partners 3-4 times with a vendor to provide screen printed and embroidered apparel and gear for purchase. The store is opened for a limited time and items direct ship to you. Store URL and details are communicated via Team Snap and the WAC Family Group Page.

On demand WAC has a storefront with embroidered apparel available for order. The link to the permanent storefront is

<https://waukeeyrawof.itemorder.com/shop/home/>