

Waukee Athletic Club

Guidebook (Fall 2026 — Spring 2027)

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President’s Letter

Board President - Mike Welsch
Term: May 2025 - April 2027)

WAC Families,

Thank you to all who participated in tryouts this season—we had 262 girls try out, placed 178 players across 17 teams, and 80% of those players are from the Waukee Community School District! What an incredible reflection of our growing community and your commitment to WAC softball.

Since 2006, WAC has remained focused on our mission:
To develop a championship girls’ softball program that encourages participation, excellence, sportsmanship, pride, and fun—supported by players, coaches, families, and the community.

As we continue to grow, we’re excited to announce several new developments:

- New coaches have joined our staff, bringing fresh energy and expertise to all age levels.
- Individual and small group lessons are now available at our indoor facility to support player development year-round.
- We’ve launched the WAC Select Program for 14U and 16U—designed for athletes seeking higher-level competition while staying rooted in the WAC values of community and development.

The WAC Board is also committed to hearing the voices of our coaches and families. We know that great ideas and improvements often come from those directly involved, and we want to continue building an organization that reflects the needs of our community. If you have feedback or suggestions, please don’t hesitate to share them with us.

To all the families, coaches, and volunteers—thank you. Your time, energy, and passion are what make WAC such a special place for our athletes to learn, grow, and compete. We’re proud of what we’ve accomplished and excited for what’s ahead.

—
Mike Welsch
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	Email
President	Mike Welsch	mike.welsch@waukeefastpitch.com
Vice President	Kathy Vandeventer	kathy.vandeventer@waukeefastpitch.com
Treasurer	Dan LaPole	dan.lapole@waukeefastpitch.com
Secretary	Jessica Richter	jessica.richter@waukeefastpitch.com
Executive Director	Chris Crawford	chris.crawford@waukeefastpitch.com
Director of Business Development	Melissa Farrel	melissa.farrel@waukeefastpitch.com
Director of Communications	Jon Anderson	jon.anderson@waukeefastpitch.com
Director of Tournaments & Events	Dan LaPole	dan.lapole@waukeefastpitch.com
Director of Facilities & Equipment	Layne Gronau	layne.gronau@waukeefastpitch.com
Director of Uniforms & Apparel	Leah Weston	leah.weston@waukeefastpitch.com
Director of Player Development	Adam DeMarais	adam.demarais@waukeefastpitch.com

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==
- 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
- USSSA Site/App - https://usssa.com/home/
- Rainout Line Site/App - https://rainoutline.com/

Club Website:

- https://www.wacsoftball.club/
  - and aliases of www.waukeefastpitch.com and www.wacsoftball.com

Find the following on our website:

- Online Store
- Board of Directors
- By-Laws
- Club Sponsors and Donors
- General news and information

Finances

Board Treasurer – Dan LaPole (Since June 2026)

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 on October 1st, and due by October 15. This invoice will be approximately 50% of the remaining balance of club dues and tournament fees.
  - E.g., $1,200 club dues + $600 tournament fees = $1,800 total cost.
  - Less $500 deposit = remaining balance of $1,300
  - Invoice 2 = $650

- A third invoice will be issued for the season on February 1st, and due by February 15th. This invoice will be for the remaining balance of club dues and tournament fees.
  - Please note that if teams decide to play extra tournaments, or more expensive tournaments like 5/6GG or Perfect Game, then there could be a final true up invoice near the end of Spring. Coaches will discuss this with families to ensure everyone is comfortable and informed.

- The WAC season runs from August through the following June 30th. 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 melissa.farrel@waukeefastpitch.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 the past two seasons.**
  - **Spotlight on Companies that have matched donations to WAC: Apple, Global Atlantic, ITA Group, John Deere, Principal, Wells Fargo and Wellmark.**

WAC Bylaws

Updated Fall 2026

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

USSSA Governance/Rules

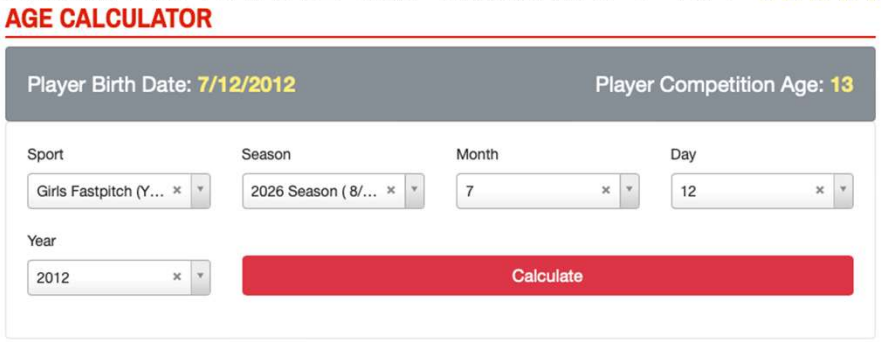
https://usssa.com/docs/Fastpitch/Fastpitch_Rules.pdf

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 2026 (August) through Summer (June 2027). Teams do not often change per season.**

- **Teams are formed according to USSSA age guidelines. See USSSA age calculator 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 By-Laws.**

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 Des Moines Metro 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 (basic). Most players who play for an A or 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. WAC is proudly sponsored by Scheels of West Des Moines. We are able offer 20% discounts 2-3 times per year. Stay tuned to email and WAC socials for details.

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 the 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 two tournaments annually, “The WAC Classic at Triumph Park” in May and the WAC Endless Summer Showdown in August. All WAC teams are strongly encouraged to play in our home tournaments.

Player Equipment (Required - Parent Provided)

Helmet — Model with a face mask.
If you are considering a new batting helmet please note, WAC encourages players to purchase a solid matte white helmet. Below are links to examples:
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. Please consult your local sports store for support purchasing the right sanctioned bat along with one that is the right length and weight for your player.

Fielding Face Mask — *If you are considering a new batting fielding mask please note, we've moved 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 to three jerseys are provided by the club each year

Parent Provided

- 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 | Online Store

- WAC logo apparel is available for purchase. 3-4 times per year we have a full store. On demand we have the most popular options.
  - https://www.wacsoftball.club/shop/

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 has a partnership with two local professionals who support our Select Team Program (16A and 14A). Both Coach Becca Dempsey and Sarah Schaefer offer individual paid private instruction. They are exclusively allowed access to instruct at the WAC Fieldhouse.

The WAC Family Page on Facebook is also a great place to start your search, seeking input from other club families on their experiences as well.

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 for each 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 jon.anderson@waukeefastpitch.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://www.wacsoftball.club/shop/**