



## 2023-24 Club Overview

### • Club History

- Established in 2019 with 14 players on one U10 team to provide something more competitive than local recreational leagues and greater development opportunities for young girls with intentions to play for Hamilton High School
- 2020 – Expanded to 3 teams, U8, U10, and U12
- 2021 – Expanded to 4 with one team each at U8, U10, U12, and U14
- 2023 – We now have 69 players across 6 teams

### • Our Mission

- We intend to serve as a high school feeder program that focuses on coaching, mentoring, developing, and motivating young people in the game of softball.
- This organization's philosophy is to provide an environment that cultivates a progression of skills and knowledge for the game. It also focuses on instilling respect for sportsmanship, the team and our community. Our goal is to deliver to the high school softball program not only outstanding young softball players but fine young athletes that will consistently represent what being a CHARGER is about.

### • Club Structure

- Board of Directors: we have 8 Board members that meet monthly and oversee operations and player development
- Elections are held each September

### • 2024 Tryouts and Team Alignment

- Monday and Tuesday, July 24 & 25, 2023
  - No tryout fee!
  - Held at Hamilton High School
- We usually select the top 11 or 12 players for each team, we will make up to two teams per age level if we have enough players who qualify
- Players will be sent an "offer letter" via email to their parents' e-mail address on file, usually within 72 hours after tryouts
- If your daughter doesn't get an offer right away, hang tight until you've been informed that the roster is filled
- Players may flex between age groups, presuming they have the capability to play up

### • Dues and What is Included

- Club Dues for New Players 2024:
  - U8 - \$750
  - U10 – U12 - \$800
  - U14 - \$850
  - \$50 discount for returning players
  - \$50 discount for a sibling (sister) in the Club
  - Sponsorship discount: families will receive a discount equal to 30% of the value of each sponsorship they bring into the Club
- Club dues are higher for older age groups to offset the additional tournament costs
- The returning player discount offsets some of the cost to purchase the original helmet, backpack equipment bag, and jerseys
- Included for new players: helmet, backpack equipment bag, 2 jerseys, 1 pair of pants, 1 belt, 1 pair of socks, use of a turf indoor practice facility (when accompanied by a coach), and all league, tournament, outdoor practice field rentals, and umpire fees
- Included for returning players: 1 pair of pants, 1 pair of socks, use of a turf indoor practice facility (when accompanied by a coach), and all league, tournament, outdoor practice field rentals, and umpire fees
- As players grow out of their originally issued jerseys, helmet, or backpack and they need to be replaced, each family is responsible to purchase those items through a Spirit Wear order

### • Spirit Wear

- Opportunities to purchase 2x per year (November and February)
- All Spirit Wear items must be ordered through the Burghardt Sporting Goods website
- All orders are final – there are no changes, returns or exchanges on custom spirit wear
- Items will not ship directly to your house; they will be delivered by Hamilton Jr. Chargers coaches as soon as we have them in December and in April
- Any custom spirit wear items that are ordered outside of the Burghardt's Spirit Wear program that utilize the Jr. Chargers Softball logos must be approved by the board of directors



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### • Sponsorships

- Our club could not operate without the financial help from sponsors
- We encourage parents to collect sponsorship funds from corporations, local businesses, or individuals
- You can receive a credit amount of 30% of the sponsorship amount.
- Example: \$1000 sponsorship = \$300 credit
  - A credit check will be issued back to you after all registration fees are paid

### • Indoor Clubhouse Practices (Jan – May)

- Our indoor practice facility, “The Clubhouse” is located at [19740 Somers Drive in Brookfield](#)
- Each age group will have two practices per week (U8 will have one) starting in January:
  - One on a weeknight for at 75 minutes between 5 and 9 p.m.
  - One on a weekend day for 90 minutes between 8 a.m and 9 p.m. (U8 only has one practice on a weekend day)
- Optional indoor or outdoor practices may start in the fall, at each head coach’s discretion
- 2 Batting Cages available, full infield, lots of development tools
- The baseball club has made enhancements each year (lights, turf, lockers, equipment, painting, rebuilt mounds, protective fencing, added Wi-Fi and camera security) to the facility to improve safety, enhance development, and increase player enjoyment



### • League Games and In-Season Practices

- Teams are expected to practice at least once per week during the season but this may vary depending on weather, league games, and tournament games
- We will align teams in leagues that are the best fit for each team.
- Most of our teams play in the WFL
  - [www.wisconsinfastpitchleague.com](http://www.wisconsinfastpitchleague.com)
- League games are doubleheaders on one weeknight
- 14-20 league games, at least one practice per week during the season

### • Tournaments

- Each age group is allotted a certain amount of funds to be used towards tournaments, this usually equates to:
  - U8 – 3 tournaments
  - U10 & U12 – 4 tournaments
  - U14 – 5 tournaments
- Teams may decide to play more tournaments if the parents are willing to chip in the incremental cost (roughly \$35-50 in registration fees per player per tournament)
- Most tournaments are selected by the coaches in December or January
- Most tournaments are local - Brookfield, New Berlin, Oconomowoc, Waukesha, Germantown, Hartford, Richfield, etc.
- Some teams may travel (Green Bay, Wisconsin Dells, Appleton, etc.) if all families within the team agree

### • Playing Time

- NOT EQUAL - based on ability to play/performance, practice effort and attendance, sportsmanship, attitude, & coachability
- We encourage coaches to utilize a continuous lineup: all players hit every game
- We encourage coaches to put the best 9 players on the field for defense to begin the game, but sub-in players each inning whenever possible
- Playing time on the field will depend on the players’ ability to play the position, their dedication / effort in practice, and their attitude / support of their teammates; all while keeping safety in mind
- We encourage coaches to work with players to get them all to pitch at the early ages, if the player wants to pitch
- For players who desire to pitch, we encourage them to regularly work with a pitching coach outside of practices, at least once per week
- There will be more development opportunities during league games, while putting the team in best opportunity to succeed at tournaments

## 2023-24 Club Overview

- We encourage our coaches to employ a careful balance between development for each player and remaining competitive
- Not every team and every age group is created equal: we believe that winning will come with proper development and appropriate league and tournament placement of teams based on the overall skill level of each individual team

- Communication

- We believe in communication!
- Central hub: [www.jrchargerssoftball.com](http://www.jrchargerssoftball.com)
- Team schedules can be found there
- All information can also be found on the SportsEngine app
- Check our Facebook page for updates
- Coaches are encouraged to utilize their @jrchargerssoftball.com or SportsEngine account to communicate any team-specific changes
- Coaches may utilize text, SportsEngine chat, or email to communicate rainouts or changes in schedule

- Parent involvement

- Lots of opportunities to be involved
- Directors, Coaching, Parent Helpers, Coordinators, Fundraising
- Contact anyone on the current board or a coach if interested in helping in any way

- Refund Policy

- No refunds will be issued to a player who chooses not to participate at any point after team commitment has been made after tryouts. Personal reasons such as travel, conflicting schedules, or lack of commitment are not cause for a refund. In the event of an injury prior to July 1st of the summer season, the executive board may review and approve a prorated refund. All equipment expenses incurred and 1/8th of season dues for each month that the player participated in team activities (based on an 8 month season) are non-refundable. Medical related refund requests require a letter from a medical professional.

## Notes