
OWATONNA

HUSKIES BULLPEN CLUB



Note from OHBC President

Hello Baseball Families!!

Welcome to the 2024 Season! Although it hasn't felt like winter with the warmer temperatures, and little to no snow. The season is approaching, and it is time to start preparing for America's favorite pastime, Baseball. Baseball is the great American sport, and can be enjoyed by everyone. A goal of the Huskies Bullpen Club is to have as many kids as possible experiencing baseball through our youth program(s).

Every year expenses go up in our community, but we continue to do our best to keep costs as low as we can. To do this, we do need help with concessions and tournaments.

The Bullpen Club is always looking for ways to improve our baseball program, and that can't be done without our Bullpen Club Board members. I want to thank each of them for their year-round efforts and continued commitment to making our baseball programs better every season. Each board member plays a vital role in helping to provide a great baseball experience for our players and parents. If you're interested in becoming part of our Board, please feel free to email me (mmfrantesl@gmail.com) or reach out to another board member.

Lastly, a HUGE THANK YOU to all of our partners and sponsors. Without them, our youth baseball programs in Owatonna would not exist. They help to reduce our program costs and allow us to develop new opportunities/programs for our youth, and keep our facilities in great shape. Please help spread the word and encourage others to participate in baseball through the Owatonna Huskies Bullpen Club. We hope to see all of you at the ball fields this summer, and if you know someone who works with one of our sponsors, please thank them for supporting Owatonna baseball.

Matt Frantesl
President
Owatonna Huskies Bullpen Club

SUPPORT OHS BASEBALL
Water Softener Salt Sale
Pre-Sale begins now!
Contact Coach Tate Cummins for Sales
Email: owatonnabaseball@live.com

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Upcoming Events

January – March	Hitting/Pitching Camps
February 4	Open gym at OHS
February 5 – March 3	Minor League Registration
March 3, 10	Uniform Sizing/Payments
March 13	Open gym at OMS
March 16	U10-U12 Evaluations



Minor League (Travel Baseball for U10 – U14)

Online registration for Minor League Baseball will open on February 5, 2024, and will end on March 3, 2024, for players at the U10, U11, U12, U13 and U14 level. You can register at Owatonnabaseball.com.

Level	Tournaments	Participation Fee	Raffle Fundraiser	Worker Deposit
U10	2	\$300	\$100	\$300
U11	3	\$325	\$100	\$300
U12	3	\$400	\$100	\$300
U13	3	\$400	\$100	\$300
U14	3	\$400	\$100	\$300



A few highlights of what is included in the 2024 participation fee:

- Full age group and team specific practices (average of two practices per week).
- League games – Metro Baseball League or South-Central League (average of two games per week).
 - End of year league tournament if the team chooses to participate.
- Baseball Academy in June (U10-U13).
- 2-3 tournaments in the month of June (depending on age).
- State Tournament (July) if team qualifies.
- Uniform (two jerseys, pants, belt & hat) *U12 receives a helmet.

Uniform Sizing and Payments:

We are offering two dates for players to try on uniforms, issue payments/deposits, pick up raffle tickets. These dates are **Sunday, March 3rd** and **Sunday, March 10th**. Both opportunities will be from 6-7:30 PM at the Owatonna High School (enter at the Athletic Doors by the Football Field). We ask that all families attend one of the dates to complete their registration. If replacement uniforms are needed, orders will be at the family's expense. **Players will not be allowed to participate in any activities until all fees and deposits have been paid.**

2024 Teams:

At each level (U10-U14), there will be one team participating in the Metro Baseball League at the AA Level. Depending on the number of registered players, an additional team or teams will be participating in an A level baseball league. U10 and U11 A teams will participate in the South-Central League and all U12-U14 A teams will participate in the Metro Baseball League. All teams will be placed in their respective A or AA level tournaments and all teams will be eligible to qualify for a state tournament bid.

- U10: All 4th graders that meet age qualifications (Born on or after May 1, 2013).
- U11: All 5th graders that meet age qualifications (Born on or after May 1, 2012).
- U12: All 6th graders that meet age qualifications (Born on or after May 1, 2011).
- U13: All 7th graders that meet age qualifications (Born on or after May 1, 2010).
- U14: All 8th graders that meet age qualifications (Born on or after May 1, 2009).

Evaluations:

- Ages U10-U12 evaluations will be held on **Saturday, March 16th** at the Owatonna High School
 - U10: 10:00 am -12:00 pm
 - U11: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
 - U12: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- Ages U13-U14: Completed by Kids First coaching staff throughout April. Additional details will be communicated.



Key Upcoming Dates:

- January – March: Hitting/Pitching camps
- February 4th: Open gym at OHS
- February 5th: Minor League registration opens (online)
- March 3rd: Registration closes. Late registrations are not guaranteed placement on a team and will be charged a late fee if accepted.
- March 3rd: Uniform sizing and registration payments/deposits (6-7:30PM at OHS)
- March 10th: Uniform sizing and registration payments/deposits (6-7:30PM at OHS)
- March 13th: Open gym at OMS
- March 16th: U10-U12 Evaluations and teams formed shortly after.
- April 1 Week: Coaches Clinic
- April 8 – 20: Age group specific practices (U10-U12)
- April 23+: Individual team practices (U10-U12)
- April 26th: Raffle drawing at OHS home baseball game – 5pm versus New Prague
- April & May: School baseball season for 7th & 8th graders (U13/U14)
- May: Practices and league games for all levels
- June: Practices, league games and tournaments for all levels
- June: Academy (U10-U13)
- July: State tournaments if applicable

DIBS

Due to continued increased city fees and prioritizing keeping our registration fees affordable, we are requiring 6 dibs hours per player with a family maximum of 15 hours. The worker deposit is \$300 per player with a family max of \$900. Reminder that this check is not cashed unless you don't fulfill your volunteer hours. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Concession stands for events
- Field maintenance
- Steele County Fair parking in August.
- Team Managers
- Other future fundraising possibilities to keep baseball affordable for our players

Fundraiser – Raffle

Our fundraiser this year again will be a cash raffle. Each player will be asked to sell 10 tickets (families with multiple players will be capped at 15 tickets) at \$10 per ticket. These tickets can be sold to anyone over the age of 18: (friends, neighbors, family members, etc.), or you can keep them for yourself. We will require a \$100 (single player) or \$150 (multiple player) deposit upon registration in exchange for the initial 10 or 15 tickets. You can sell as many tickets as you'd like. If you sell the initial 10, and would like more tickets, please contact Nick at: nickjm95@gmail.com. If you sell 25 tickets, you will receive a \$25-dollar Scheels gift card. If you sell over 50 tickets, your name will be put in the hat for a chance at a \$200 Scheels gift card. Total cash prizes will be approximately \$5,000! The prize drawings will be held on April 26th, 2024 at the varsity baseball game located at Darts Park (429 Mineral Springs RD). You do not need to be present to win.



Owatonna Baseball Academy

In 2023, the Owatonna High School Baseball program hit it out of the park for their highly successful and engaging baseball camp. We are back again, with camps occurring from June 11 - 26 in 2024. Aspiring young athletes will gather at the Jaycee Park baseball facilities to hone their skills, learn from seasoned coaches, and immerse themselves in the world of America's favorite pastime. Camp attendees will receive top-notch instruction and guidance from OHS Head Coach Tate Cummins, Matt Seykora, and a host of alumni and current players from OHS. Coaches brought a wealth of experience, creating a positive and supportive environment for skill development and personal growth.

The camp features skill development clinics covering all aspects of the game, including hitting, pitching, fielding, and base running. Participants will have the opportunity to refine their techniques through specialized drills and personalized feedback from coaches, fostering improvement in every player.

Beyond the technical aspects of the game, the camp will emphasize the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and leadership. Coaches will instill valuable life skills in the young athletes, promoting a culture of respect, camaraderie, and a love for the sport.

Each age level will be meeting at the following dates and times at Jaycee Park. The cost is included in your registration fee. Each session will last 90 minutes.

U10: 8:00 – 9:30 AM (June 11, 18 & 25)

U11: 9:30 – 11:00 AM (June 11, 18 & 25)

U12: 8:00 – 9:30 AM (June 12, 19 & 26)

U13: 9:30 – 11:00 AM (June 12, 19 & 26)



Little League Baseball

Owatonna Parks & Recreation will be running Little League with the assistance from the Huskies Bullpen Club. Look for additional details and announcements from [Owatonna Parks & Rec](#) soon.

Below is a brief overview of what to expect of the Little League program.

Machine Pitch (Current 2nd Graders) Program Information: Pitching machine league with emphasis on participation and development of fundamental baseball skills along with an introduction to pitching and situational baseball. Practices and Games – Monday and Wednesday (June and July).

Player Pitch (Current 3rd & non U10 4th Graders) Program Information: Players will pitch at this level. This is intended to prepare kids for traveling baseball as well as continuing the development of fundamentals and the skills of the game. Practices and Games – Tuesday and Thursday (June and July).

Tournament Information

With the warm weather this winter, it's a lot easier to think that baseball season is right around the corner! Who knows - maybe we will be able to get outside in March for practice this year!

Tournaments look a little bit different this year, as we are hosting two weekends of tournaments rather than four, this means that not all ages will have a home tournament. Our idea at this point is to see how this goes and if it goes well, keep with this format. This change is due to a variety of things, including costs and volunteers and board members to run the tournaments.

Concessions went pretty well last year and we learned a few things to help them run even better. Once again, we will have a full concession plan for League and Tournament games. These will be open for DIBS hours, and the money brought in through concessions has a direct impact on 2025 registration fees. We are thankful for the hard work the Owatonna Park and Rec staff puts in to get the baseball fields ready, for parents and families volunteering their time and energy to help run the concession stands and the generous support from our local businesses that help our home tournaments run smoothly.

Looking ahead to next season, here are the dates for our 2024 home tournaments. Tournaments will be held at Manthey, Jaycee Park, OMS West and OHS. We're excited to host a tournament for 14AA at our new baseball facility!

June 7 - 9: U10A, 12A, 14AA - 2024

June 28 - 30: U11A & 12AA - 2024

The Away 2024 Tournaments are mostly scheduled, and will be updated on the website in the coming weeks. We worked hard to choose tournaments that were affordable, relatively close, and playing different teams. Our success continues to hinge on the volunteer efforts of parents and community members of Owatonna. We are hoping that you join us for a great year of youth baseball in Owatonna!



Keep current with Owatonna baseball news in the following ways:

Owatonnabaseball.com – The official home of the Owatonna Huskies Bullpen Club with information about player care, tournaments, leagues, and contact information for the Bullpen Club Board.

Facebook: Follow [Owatonna Huskies Bullpen Club](https://www.facebook.com/OwatonnaHuskiesBullpenClub) for articles and features year-round.

Twitter: Follow and tweet at us by using [@HuskiesBullpen](https://twitter.com/HuskiesBullpen).

Instagram: Follow [huskies_bullpen_club](https://www.instagram.com/huskies_bullpen_club) for announcements and features through the season.

TikTok: Follow [huskies_bullpen_club](https://www.tiktok.com/huskies_bullpen_club) for some cool slideshows.

Help us track your team by posting with **#owatonnabaseball**



OWATONNA HUSKIES BULLPEN CLUB BOARD MEMBERS

Matt Frantesl President	Joe Herzog Vice President	Bridgette Bowar Treasurer	Michele Merxbauer Secretary	Nate Skala Minor League Director
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A big thanks to our sponsors that make Owatonna Baseball such a success. The funds raised lower participation fees, which increases the number of athletes playing the great game of Baseball.

There is no question, this support makes Owatonna among the best communities in MN to raise and develop our youth. Thank you,

Huskies Bullpen Club

American Legion
Alexander Lumber
Chevy Youth Baseball
Community Bank Owatonna
Cumberland's Northwest Trappers
Supply
El Tequila
Fame Awards
Farmers Insurance - Lindsay Macht
Agency
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