



Hello, WCBA Families and Followers.

Here is the April 2026 WCBA Newsletter

Winter Training Session:

Winter Training Sessions wrapped up Thursday, March 19th. We thank all those that were able to participate in them and we saw great improvement. We believe this was a success and we will look to continue next winter.

Registration Updates:

Hard Registration Deadline is 03/31/2026 at 11:59pm. No registrations will be accepted after that unless of circumstances such as just moved to the district after registration deadline.

2026 Tournament Director:

Still looking for a Tournament Director. If you are someone you know are interested please reach out to us and let us know. Tournament Director would be in charge of coordination of games, umpires, and be the point of contact for each tournament.

Early Bird Tournament/Canaries Game

It has been determined that the 2026 Canaries vs Armatures Baseball game will be held on Sunday, May 10th and will be the conclusion of the Early Bird Tournament. The Canaries game will not only offer fun activities for the kids but will also be held as a memorial tournament honoring the lives of two recently passed away baseball players, Reed Harter and Chandler Bakley. For the kids we will have a minicamp put on by the Canaries, a chance for them to catch Batting Practice Balls and Free meal for those players that participated in the Early Bird Tournament. For the memorial, there will be Silent Auction for a number of items including a Suite at a Canaries Game, Canaries signed Helmet, and Canaries signed bat. All proceeds of the silent auction will go to the Harter/Bakley Scholarship. The game between the Canaries and Armatures will start at 3:00pm. The

game and activities will all be free of charge to those that participated in the Early Bird Tournament and \$5 a person for all others. The sale of beer is going to be permitted and will be done so by the Humboldt Main Street Bar.

2026 WCBA Hosted Tournaments

Here is a list of the tournaments that WCBA will be hosting this year. There will be plenty of volunteer opportunities and sponsorship opportunities.

10U/12U Early Bird Tournament: May 8th – 10th

8U Midwest Bash: June 12th – 14th

Legion Grand Slam: June 19th – 21st

SD VFW 8U State Tournament: July 10th – 12th

SD VFW 10U State Tournament: July 24th – 26th

Grand Stand for Field A

Waiting on design options and cost estimations.

Umpire Coordinator

This year we will be working with Jason Whitting to set up an official Umpire Coordinator position. This position will be responsible for scheduling all umpires for 14U and above. Cost would be around \$87 per ump per game, which would be less than years past. For 12U and lower, we will be responsible for organizing the 14U players to work the games. We do have an interested individual in being the coordinator for the 12U and under games, Noah Erickson, and he will be invited to the next Board Meeting to discuss.

Hartford Sports and Rec Board Representation

Matt Cain has volunteered to represent the WCBA on the Hartford Sports and Rec Board. He will work with them on getting appointed via vote by the Sports and Rec Board.

Gear Store

The Gear Store should be launched by the first week in April. This will be different from years past where we will be able to offer more options, direct shipping of orders, and the store will be able to be open all season long, not just a 1 time order.

Scholarship Program

WCBA will be offering 2 - \$1,000 Scholarships to Seniors who play in the WCBA Entries will need to submit name, school they plan on attending, and an essay on what baseball has

taught them and what the WCBA has been able to do for them. We will collect entries until May 1st and then will review over the month of May, the board will review over the month of May/June and announce in July. Link will be posted and emailed in the next week.

Petition To Play Up

This is temporarily on hold as VFW may be changing to use grades to determine division rather than date of birth. Concept to play up will be the same, just need to determine the parameters for division.

Coaches Clinic

Stu and Herb will be working on setting up a coach's clinic which will be MANDATORY for all head and assistant coaches. They will be setting up a couple of dates to give all coaches a couple of options to attend.

Umpire Clinic

We are working on setting up an umpire clinic for the youth that will be umping this year. This will be mandatory for all 14U players in order to ump. We will communicate more when this is set up.

Rosters/Schedules

All rosters have been created and set. If you have not received your email you can see your child's roster by logging into SportsEngine with the email and password you used to sign them up. If you have not heard from your coaches yet, you should be in the near future. Practices for all by Tball to start the first part of April weather permitting. Tball will start when school is done.

Sponsorships

WCBA is always looking for more sponsors for our program. It is \$500 for a 3 year term and includes a banner which can put on the outfield fence of your choice (Fields A, B, C, D, or E in Humboldt). It is \$100 for a 1 year website sponsorship, and for tournaments it is \$100 to be a tournament sponsor and have your name/business on the program (for tournaments that we have programs). We do also have Team Sponsor opportunities for \$1000 and would get your name/logo on the jerseys; however, we need those by 04/02/2026 as we are ready to send jerseys to print. This would be tax deductible as we are a non-profit organization. We also offer team sponsorships as well in which you can sponsor the team of your choice and get your logo on the jerseys (these must be provided in the next couple weeks as we will be getting jersey orders in soon). If you are interested in being a sponsor, please reach out to us at wcbassoc@gmail.com or call/text Heath Thomsen at 605-351-7333.

Assigned Coaches

We have identified 1 coach for the 14U, and still working on a coach for the JV. Varsity/Legion will be coached by Stu and Herb with the Assistance of Matt Cain. For the 12U Select Teams, Herb and Stu are still working on coaches; however, there are a couple in mind (Brayden and Chadd Herr).

Concessions

This year we will make a slight change to foul balls and the kids will receive a \$0.50 coupon towards the concession stand if up on B, C, D, or E and if the game is on field A the coupons will be worth \$1.00. We are also working on accepting Venmo for Payment at the Concessions this year.

MinnDak Updates

Currently they are discussing a few items:

- Whether to use the VFW Pitch Count Rule or go by inning count. It seems to be pretty split amongst the city reps on which they want to go but will have it determined before the start of the season.
- Game schedules should be released by 04/26/2026.
- They are looking for host sites for both the 10U and 12U End of Season Tournaments. WCBA has offered to host either one. Those will be June 26 – 28.

WCBA Division Rep's

We do ask that if operations related questions that you email wcbaoperations@gmail.com; however, we do also have Board Member representatives for each division:

- Tball – Andy Lueth
- 6U – Vern Lind
- 8U – Heath Thomsen
- 10U – Matt Cain
- 12U – Lance Koenig / Kaitlin Retzlaff
- 14U – Chadd Herr
- JV/Varsity/Legion – Stu Maes and Herb Byers

All contact information can be located on the About Us>Our Board page of our website.

Next Board Meeting

Next Board Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 3rd at 6:00pm in the Humboldt Community Center.