

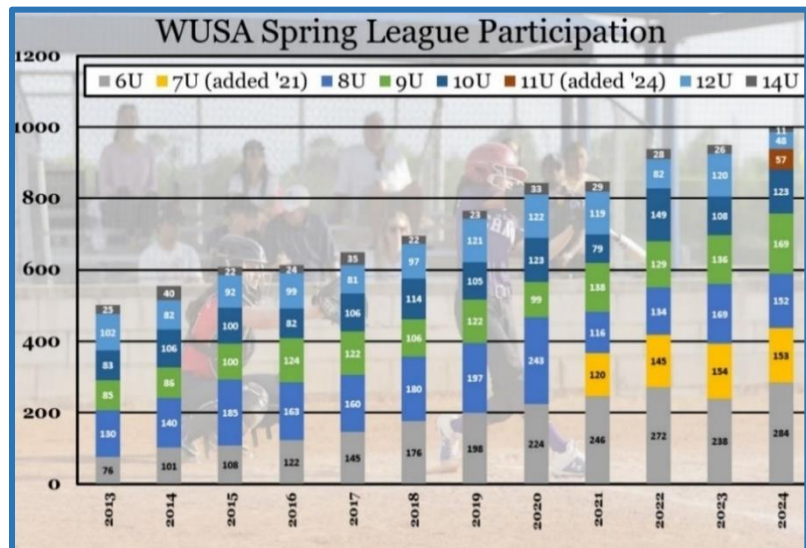


# West University Softball Association

## Winter 2023 – Spring 2024 Newsletter

WUSA Friends and Families:

We concluded another amazing, record-setting spring program. Not only did enrollments surpass past records, the play on the field and our community engagement exceeded expectations! The Spring Season featured a rule update that introduced an 11U division for the 1<sup>st</sup> time and an end-of-season All-Star Game. This builds on the enhanced skill development programming offered at the weekly Pitcher-Catcher clinics.



All of this takes a back seat to our league’s focus on FUN, and the spring program was not short on that. We started the season with an awesome parade and carnival. The fun and size of the league was on full display when our largest ever contingent of 99 teams decked out in every kind of apparel and costume took over Edloe Street! The energy of the league was evident during the Hit-A-Thon week fundraiser, Father-Daughter Night and the Adult Social which added a magical & mystical spin to the season. This newsletter showcases much of what the league has done this spring and enhancements we have made. That said, what we hope all our players and families cherish the most are the friendships that were newly developed or strengthened this season! Enjoy your summer and see you back for WUSA’s Fall programming!

Mike Liebl - WUSA Spring Commissioner  
(Incoming WUSA President 2024-2025)



---

## **President's Message**

I was recently at a high school game to watch my younger daughter, Emily, play in a varsity game and standing along the fence and sitting in the stands were a number of parents of former WUSA players. We joked we could have a WUSA reunion after the game, even a meeting of former WUSA board members. What I saw that game and in other games were a significant number of girls who continued to play beyond WUSA and who have grown into intelligent, athletic, and respectful young women. Each of the girls waved and said hello, and while we may have been on opposing teams that day, we were silently cheering on our WUSA friends.

When Emily joined the league about ten years ago, the league was approximately half the size it is now. Growing to 1,000 girls is an amazing feat; however, it is a testament to our participants, families, and leadership that we continue to provide the best softball experience for our girls. As I said at the opening parent meeting, our league values are what make us successful. Our priorities of safety, fun, skill development, and competitiveness (in that order) have been our mainstay and will continue to be long after I finally step away.

With that in mind, my term as President will conclude this summer when I hand off the reins to Michael Liebl. In this role and as a member of the Board for the last several years, I am proud of our accomplishments: including the redevelopment of our concessions facility, adding field cameras, parking, walkways, the new cage at McGovern, updating league policies, our most recent announcement to build a new covered batting and infield pavilion by Field 4, and so much more. This pavilion will be the largest investment we've made since the addition of Fields 4 &



5 and we think it will add a much needed resource for protected practice space.

---

---

I often tell people this role is a labor of love and I can think of no better way to describe it. While I will remain on the Board as the immediate Past-President, I will gladly hand over the day-to-day operations and decisions to Mike and the rest of the Board. Serving as the WUSA President is a job unto itself, but it takes the workings of the entire Board, the Auxiliary, ACES, and all of you to keep this machine running.

I also need to thank Jenny McCarthy in particular, the President before me, who has been a trusted advisor on just about every topic. I remember discussing an issue with Jenny while she was President and she kept quiet for a moment while allowing me to make the call. Then I said, "I feel like I'm being groomed here" and she just laughed. How true that statement was.

Thanks to my two girls, Isabelle (who applied to college this year and had to share me with WUSA, Go Cardinals!) and Emily (who had to deal with me as her coach while also a Board member, Go Mavericks!) and most importantly to my very patient and loving wife, Heather. She encouraged me to do this job and has been there to hear every challenge, success, and miniscule detail about the league. She's also put up with my late nights working on WUSA and the hours I've been away from the family while at the fields or in a WUSA meeting.

This is far from a farewell since I'll be around as a Board member, advisor, and primary person to shepherd the pavilion project to completion; yet, I'm looking forward to having more free time to focus on other things. Know that you're in excellent hands with Mike and the Board. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your spirit, passion, and support in helping make my time as President so incredibly rewarding and for making WUSA the premier recreational softball league it is today and will continue to be.

Go WUSA!

Daniel Pesikoff  
WUSA President  
2022 – 2024





---

## Volunteers helping WUSA

The Needville High School PALS (Peer, Assistance, Leadership, Services) group took a day to support our WUSA community on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Thirty-two young leaders descended on South Campus and did a thorough clean-up job. They removed forgotten softballs and lacrosse balls and collected bags full of trash to keep our facilities looking great! A huge thank you to these students for their support of our softball community.



Keeping our facilities in order is a responsibility we all share. We ask that you do your part when using or visiting our



facilities to pick up after yourself and even take a step to pick up after someone else

**Pitcher & Catcher Sessions:** Thanks again to our WUSA Pro Coaches Priscilla Riser and Valerie Quiroga and their affiliated coaches for supporting us this Spring. The 10 weeks of clinics averaged 37 participants each Sunday and we noticed these players' skill development translating onto the field.



Players' efforts and the coaches' support are helping to expand these skill positions for our growing league.

---

---

## Facilities & Equipment Updates:

WUSA's commitment to investing in and improving our facilities was evident this spring. Key updates included the paving of the south



campus expansion parking lot in collaboration with our other South Campus partners (WULL, Rise Soccer, SFL Football and HYLAX Lacross). Six additional handicap spaces were added there and

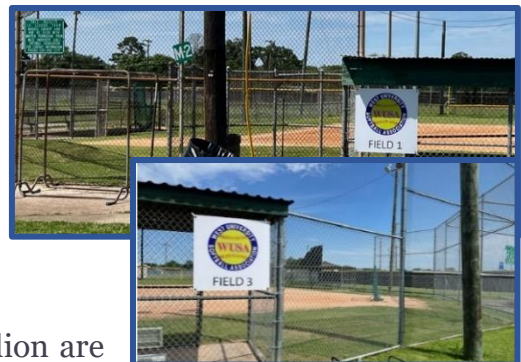
WUSA added two handicap spaces and walkway between fields 2 and 3.

Shade structures were added at South Campus fields 1 and 3 just in time for the spring tournament providing much needed cover for fans down the third and first base side stands respectively.



Our McGovern campus got a new scoreboard that operates off the same phone app as our scoreboards at South Campus for ease of use. Also at McGovern, we are constructing a new batting cage along the right-field fence to be completed in late spring and early summer. We improved field signage at our WUSA Bayland campus so these fields can be clearly identified.

Prior to the spring season we invested in several new pitching machines, new bases and other equipment giving our girls' and coaches the best tools for the season.



These enhancements and the newly planned pavilion are possible only through the generosity of our families during our fundraising events such as Hit-A-Thon week and Adult Social. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors.

---

## WUSA Spring Season Final Standings

Congratulations to our division champions and runners-up for the 2024 Spring Season!

Divison	Champion	Runner-up
7U	Thunder (Freedman)	Lightning (Munro)
8U	Sunburst (Hughes)	Zodiac (Delisi)
9U	Wolves (Hans)	Bobcats (Bunting)
10U	Kingsnakes (Davis)	Vipers (McAlister)
11U	Swifts (Patir)	Phoenix (Walker)
12U	Momentum (Koush)	Volts (Hamilton)

## Spring 2024 End-of-Season Tournament Standings

Divison	Champion	Runner-up
7U	Thunder (Freedman)	Monsoon (Heins)
8U	Cosmos (Levan)	Zodiac (Delisi)
9U	Bobcats (Bunting)	Pumas (Driscoll)
10U	Vipers (McAlister)	Kingsnakes (Davis)
11U	Phoenix (Walker)	Cardinals (Scott)
12U	Momentum (Koush)	Volts (Hamilton)

## WUSA Auxiliary Updates



Our auxiliary facilitates so many of our operations that get our girls on the field and make the fan experience great through our concessions program. This Spring Season, our auxiliary was essential to organizing player uniforms and yard signs plus all the great events this spring.

The auxiliary-led, Hit-A-Thon was enhanced this year to incorporate in-game hits as part of the program. What a great addition to our fundraising effort! We want to recognize these accomplishments: **Most hits per division:** 7U Thunder, 8U Nebula, 9U Coyotes, 10U Serpents, 11U Phoenix. **Most home runs per division:** 7U Avalanche, 8U Nebula, 9U Wolves and Panthers (tie), 10U Cobras, and 11U Phoenix. **100% team participation:** 6U Kangaroos, 10U Cobras and Pythons. The program raised over \$33,000 for support of our college scholarship program and capital improvements.

WUSA auxiliary keeps parents and fans alike outfitted with the latest WUSA gear. Visit our [WUSA Store](#) to get more! To get involved with this amazing team, email [auxiliarywusa@gmail.com](mailto:auxiliarywusa@gmail.com) [Follow us on Facebook too!](#)

Special thanks to our WUSA auxiliary Co Chairs, Anne McAllister and Staci Vetterling as well as our Concessions Chair Stephanie Baudin.



## WUSA College Scholarship Recognitions

Nine WUSA alumni were honored with a WUSA scholarship that helps support them in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of their college career. Congratulations to these WUSA alumni. Truly an amazing class of student athletes who spent numerous seasons with WUSA.



Lauren Gentry (16); Merry Griffin (12); Mia Lopez (11); Penelope Meehan (15); Lilian Pate (8); Ainsley Pinkerton (12); Ella Sablatura (16); Kate Sullo (12); Hannah Tejtel (12)

## WUSA “ACES” Program Keeps Going Strong

WUSA introduced the “WUSA – Associates Committed to Excellence in Softball (ACES)” role to our league’s volunteerism ranks in 2023.



ACES are recognizable in their distinctive blue shirts, and blue hats with the ACES logo. Our ACES opened and closed our campus throughout the spring season, supported various tasks to maintain the facilities and provided support to our umpire crew and managers for rules interpretation when needed. ACES were called upon to umpire a few 6U games and by-all-accounts, had a blast. During our end-of-season tournament, our ACES stepped up to the plate and delivered bigtime with field preparation, to keep our games on schedule.

Joining the WUSA ACES program is another way to support the league beyond involvement in your daughter’s team. Email the [WUSA helpline](#) if you have an interest in joining for the next season (Fall 2024 and Spring 2025).

### **Hat Tip to the 2024 Spring Season ACES**

Phillip Bunting	Brent Hodges	Will Mejia	Mark Prescott
William Byers	Ashley Irwin	Matt Moake	Frank Rivas
Rhett Davis	Mike Jones	Paul Monsour	John Roberson
Lee Donovan	Mike Kim	Nick Nicodemus	Brett Taaffe
Andrew Driscoll	Greg Koush	Jamie Nodler	Tom Vetterling
John Galfione	JB McAllister	Bradley Olitzki	Keith Wolf
Russell Gray	Jenny McCarthy	Chris O'Neil	Lee Wright
Tracy Hale	Greg McEldowney	Stella Pedroza	
Marco Hirvensalo	Andy Mejia	John Plumb	

## WUSA Spring Season All Stars



Congratulations to our first ever, Spring Season All-Stars. Players were nominated-by and voted-on by their respective division managers.

Twenty-two players were afforded the opportunity to represent their division in an All-Star Game following the end-of-season tournament. The action on the field was great & showcased the superb talent and skills of players in the league. An new WUSA tradition!

<u>7U Blue Team</u> Manager - Doug Freedman	<u>7U Red Team</u> Manager - Ryan Papetti
Sophia Delatorre	Adeline Bonura
Tova Freedman	Abigail Bucher
Alexandra Mathews	Price Condrey
Charlie Nelson	Sadie Firestone
Brighton Powers	Amelia Heins
Savannah Ramirez	Hannah Judkowitz
Lucie Robles	Caroline Marcum
Reagan Roe	Wellesley McKenny
Elise Warner	Clara Papetti
Emmeline White	Wimberley Standiford
Elise Williams	Allie Thompson

<u>9U Blue Team</u> Manager - Clint Pasche	<u>9U Red Team</u> Manager - Philip Bunting
Emily Hong	Lincoln Bonnette
Josie Johnston	Cameron Bunting
Flynn McEldowney	Abigail Castillo
Izzy McKenny	Julie Driscoll
Samantha Moake	Hazel Fehn
Rosemary Nodler	Samantha Gray
Emma Pasche	Wilhelmina Hartz
Danica Rajevac	Adalyn Kim
Fe Rivas	Isla Shaftel
Julia Skaug	Annabelle Whitley
Brooke Stewart	Talia Wright

<u>11U Blue Team</u> Manager - Sam Patir	<u>11U Red Team</u> Manager - Ted Walker
Audrey Alvarez	Ava Castillo
Stella Boyd	Aviana Chang
Helen Dugan	Ellis Gorski
Eloise Eagleton	Grace Hirvensalo
Louisa Engelbrink	Caroline Irwin
Alexis Freshwater	Caroline Shanahan
Audrey Lyons	Julia Shidler
Lauren Martin	Milania Tabakman
Talya Patir	Georgia Turner
Julissa Sanchez	Lorelei Walker
Maddie Taibel	Mae Walker

<u>8U Blue Team</u> Manager - Paul Delisi	<u>8U Red Team</u> Manager - Danny Hughes
Blaire Buckmaster	Ellen Burley
Elena Caceres	CJ Chulick
Gabby De Lisi	Delaney Donovan
Abigail Hunt	Reagan Grimm
Tessa Jebbitt	Penny Hughes
Elizabeth Knudsen	Rosa Jorgensen
Charlotte Kuck	Ilana Lee
Annabelle Landrum	Addison McDade
Josephine Oska	Poppie Mejia
Amelia Pallares	Allison Voie
Emma Watts	Amaia Young

<u>10U Blue Team</u> Manager - Rhett Davis	<u>10U Red Team</u> Manager - JB McAlister
Gemma Baird	Natalia Baltodano
Pippa Beasley	Elizabeth Baudin
Savannah Beinart	Keelie Cordova
Samantha Cooper	Carson Frels
Natalia Cotton	Annabeth Kirklín
Emma Hughes	Hays McAllister
Shiloh Landrum	Sloane Nicodemus
Macey Liebl	Frances Prescott
Connely Martin-Harvey	Emily Stasio
Cate Oneill	Gemma (Mai-Anh) Vu
Olivia Taschery	Meg Wright

<u>12U Blue Team</u> Manager - Greg Koush	<u>12U Red Team</u> Manager - David Hamilton
Caroline Casey	Molly Austin
Elena Chapman-Ramirez	Haylee Cross
Caroline Cozart	Taylor Fefer
Sydney Fahey	Maryfrances Funk
Allie Kim	Annabelle Hamilton
Claire Koush	Lily Hughes
Sydney Monkmeyer	Madison Kimble
Zoe Nodler	Eliana Marino
Madison Pinnix	Taylor Martin
Gabriela Ramirez	Callan McKay
Daniela Trejo	Clara Pasche



## WUSA Softball: A Softball Experience that Grows *with You*

**6U (5 & 6 year-olds)** This is the earliest introduction WUSA softball and includes a combination of "coach-pitch" and t-ball. There are no strikeouts. Players are encouraged to hit. The focus is on fun and instruction. Teams are arranged by friend and school requests though all enrolled players are placed on a team. No player evaluations are conducted. An 11" safety ball is used. Practices are once a week (one day between Monday and Thursday). Games are on Saturdays. No season standings are kept & no end-of-season tournament is played. The 6U division is open for the spring season only. No fall program is available for 5-6 year-olds.

**7U (7 year-olds)** A coach pitches to players using an 11-inch safety ball (DX5). All players play in the field every inning and all players bat. There are modified overthrow and baserunning rules to encourage players to attempt plays and develop their skills. To allow all players the chance to develop knowledge and skills at all the positions, WUSA requires rotation of players between infield and outfield positions each game. Practices are once a week (one day between Monday and Thursday) and games are on Saturdays.

**8U (8 year-olds)** Coaches pitch to players using an 11-standard ball. Overthrow rules become more limited to challenge players' skills, but also encourage players to attempt plays. All players will play in the field every inning and all players bat. To allow all players the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills at all the positions, WUSA requires rotations of players between infield and outfield positions each game. Practices are once a week (one day between Monday and Thursday) and games are on Saturdays.

**9U (9 year-olds)** Players pitch 1 inning each game with the remaining innings pitched by a machine. Modified overthrow rules are even more limited to challenge players to attempt plays. The dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike is in play. All players will play in the field every inning and all players bat. To allow all players the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills at all the positions, WUSA requires player rotation between infield and outfield positions each game. Practices are once a week (one day between Monday and Thursday) and games are on Saturdays.

**10U (10 year-olds)** For the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the season, players pitch 2 innings per game with the remaining innings pitched by a machine. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the season is all girl pitch. A baserunning rule to limit advancement on steals is the only rule modification. All players play in the field every inning and all players bat. To promote a player's skills develop and knowledge of all positions, WUSA requires rotations of players between infield and outfield positions. **Practices once a week on the weekends and games are weekdays once to twice a week.**

**11U (11 year-olds)** Introduced Spring 2024, our 11U division recognizes a major transition in girls fast-pitch softball. Starting at 11U players use a standard 12" softball and pitch from 40 ft. The larger softball and longer pitching distance is an adjustment for many players. In this division, standard softball rules apply. Teams field 9 players defensively while all players bat. WUSA rules to encourage player movement from infield to outfield positions remain. Practices are once a week on the weekends and games are weekdays once to twice a week.

**12U (12 year-olds):** The 12U Spring season is the pinnacle year for WUSA recreational play. 12U showcases WUSA's balance of high-level softball, a supportive team environment, & fun. Standard softball rules apply. Teams field 9 players defensively while all players bat in the lineup. Recognizing the development of player-position specialization at this age, league rules for rotation among infield and outfield positions no longer apply. Practices are once a week on weekends and games are weekdays one to two times a week.

**14U (13 & 14 year-olds)** Players continue to grow their skills as they prepare for middle-school and high-school softball with a pitching distance of 43 ft. The number of teams formed depends on the number of overall players and players at skill positions (pitcher & catcher).

- Fall Ball: Teams alternate weekly between intramural scrimmages & college coach and player-led practices
- Spring Ball: WUSA teams compete against area middle schools and other 14U recreation league teams in a WUSA-led cooperative league. Practices are once a week on Sunday evenings. Games are weekdays once to twice a week. Approximately 2-6 games each spring are played outside of WUSA facilities.
- Players completing 8 seasons (Fall or Spring) and a 14U Spring season are honored as WUSA Graduates!

### For 7 – 12U Divisions:

- Player evaluations are conducted
- Teams are formed through a draft process
- All enrolled players make a team
- Season standings are maintained (Spring Season)
- A regular season Champion and Runner-up recognized (Spring Season)
- An end-of season tournament is held for all teams per division and a Tournament Champion and Runner-up are recognized (Fall & Spring Seasons)

### Players 7 years and older can opt to tryout for Tournament Teams (TT)

WUSA TTs are open to WUSA players and families seeking more frequent and more competitive softball. Teams fit into four age groups (8U, 10U, 12U and 14U) and compete across the greater Houston & surrounding areas during weekend tournaments.

Players are assigned to a team within a skill-based tiered structure fitting the player's skills and fit for the team. WUSA forms as many TT teams as there are players available and as skill positions (pitcher/catcher) allow.

Summer TTs begin competition the weekend after the WUSA Spring Recreation Tournament concludes and may run through the first week of July based on the manager and players' availability.

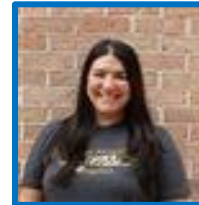
Fall TTs form after tryouts in August and play September - November.

Between our Fall & Spring Recreation seasons, and the Summer and Fall TT programs, WUSA offers the softball enthusiast ~9 months of softball a year with the option of high-end, highly-competitive play at each age division.

### Summer Softball Development Options

WUSA families are invited to seek out summer softball camps and individualized instruction offerings around Houston. Below are a few of the camps and resources open to WUSA families and some are supported by our WUSA "Pros".

- **Coach Priscilla Riser:** Coach Riser is our WUSA Pro for Pitching & offers both small Group Pitching Lessons in the Meyerland/Bellaire area as well as Pitching Clinics. If you're interested in attending Group Lessons, or for Pitching Clinic for your team, please sign up for her [SportsYou](#) group: Riser Pitching CLINICS/GROUPS (Group code is: ENFK-LXUB)



Coach Riser and St. Agnes Academy staff are hosting an All-Skills Camp on June 10-12 and Pitching and Catching camps on June 13-14 at the St. Agnes Athletic Complex. Players will work with St. Agnes coaches, current players, and college players. [Click Here](#) to Register.

Coach Riser's summer skills camps are at Buckley Performance and are lead by Coach Riser, Coach, Tyler Dobson (Assistant St. Agnes Academy Softball) & college players weekly throughout the summer. Click on the [Buckley Performance Site](#) for more information.

- **Coach Valerie Quiroga** – Coach Val is our WUSA Catching Pro and supports catching and general skills / hitting, fielding. Visit her [website](#) for more details.
- [University of Houston Softball Camp Offerings](#)
- [Episcopal High School Softball Camp](#)



- **WUSA Player Alumni Coaching Network.** A collection of WUSA alumni offer instruction through a group called [Softball Savvy](#). These are talented high-school players who are offering their support to WUSA families. Visit their website to connect with them about a time for instruction.





Images from the Spring Season (Photos Courtesy WUSA Auxiliary, Michael Bishoff, & Nancy Baltodano)







THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT ARISE WHERE THERE ARE THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT.





---

## WUSA Spring Season & End-of-Season Tournament

### Champions and Runners-up – Congratulations!

7U



8U



9U



10U



11U



12U









---

## **Sponsorship**

Thank you to [our sponsors](#) who help us provide a top-notch softball experience. When you have the choice, support [our sponsors](#) and let them know you appreciate their commitment to WUSA. Sponsorships are available at different price points and WUSA can create customized opportunities that may meet your interest. To discuss, [contact us](#).

From all of us at WUSA, we hope you added new memories and new friendships during the Spring 2024 WUSA season. We wish you a wonderful summer filled with fun, softball, and family time and we hope to see you in the Fall!

***Michael Liebl***

*WUSA Executive Vice President*



### ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

- Fall 2024 Season Early Bird Registration – July 21<sup>st</sup> – July 26<sup>th</sup>
- Fall 2024 Season Regular Registration – July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Fall 2024 Season Late Registration begins August 24<sup>th</sup>
- Fall 2024 Season Manager Meetings – August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Fall 2024 Season Practices Begin – Week of September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024
- Fall 2024 Season Concludes – Weekend of November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

If you missed any of our past newsletters, link to them here:

[Winter 2023- Spring 2024](#)

[Summer – Fall 2023](#)

[Winter 2022 – Spring 2023](#)

[Summer – Fall 2022](#)

[Winter 2021 - Spring 2022](#)

[Summer - Fall 2021](#)

[Winter 2020 - Spring 2021](#)

[Fall 2020](#)

[Summer 2020](#)

[Spring 2020](#)

[Winter 2019](#)

[Fall 2019](#)

[Friend us on Facebook](#)

Copyright© 2024 West University Softball Association, All rights reserved.

Vol.13 Winter 2024 – Spring 2024

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

---