



West University Softball Association

Summer-Fall 2021 Newsletter

WUSA Friends and Families:

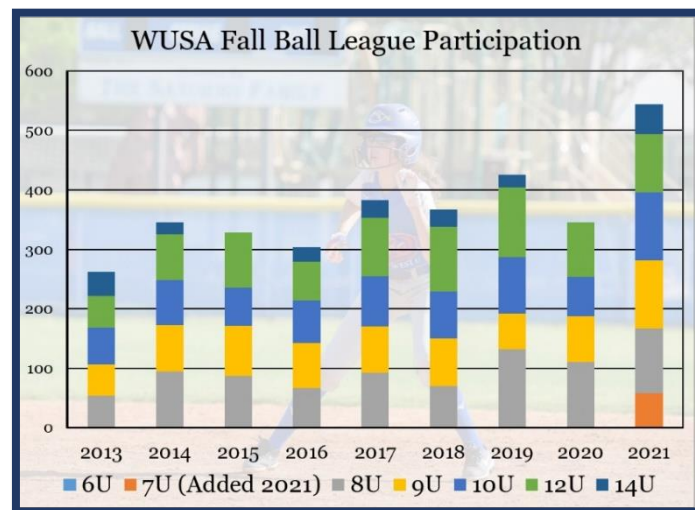
As we have closed out our Summer and Fall Softball seasons we are looking forward to another great Spring season of WUSA softball ([Enroll here](#)). In this issue, we will recap some of the great softball our league produced over the summer and fall seasons among our recreation and tournament teams. We will review plans for our 2022 recreational spring season and update on a few rule changes. We detail plans for expanded field use and infrastructure updates needed to keep pace with the growth of the league and improve the softball experience for all players and families.

Fall 2021 WUSA Recreation League Recap:

WUSA had a record enrollment this fall season across all divisions (7-14U). Owing to the success in the spring, we carried forward the split of the divisions for 7 and 8 year-old players allowing for more consistent skill alignment.

Each age division saw increased participation and we noted a great

turn-out for our 14U division which has been one of the more variable divisions for fall ball historically. With the primary goal of fall ball being development of player's skills and situational knowledge of the game in a relaxed atmosphere, we scheduled games starting early in the season. To prepare participants for the more competitive spring season, new in 2021, we closed fall ball with an end-of-season tournament. Feedback on the experience has been positive and we saw the competitive juices start to flow as a teaser for the spring season.



Quality of Play: Recent Rule Changes and Planned Enhancements

We continue to promote changes to strengthen the quality of league play. Starting spring 2021, we introduced a stand-alone 7U division with rules aimed to advance player skills and maintain competitiveness. The changes worked. There is a better match between the skill level of the players and the rules for stopping play promote development of next-level softball play.



Players, parents, and umpires all now know what a throw to the cylinder means too!



This fall, WUSA tested a change at the 10U division level. We started fall ball with our traditional two innings of girl pitch followed by machine pitch. At the halfway point of the season, the division converted to all-girl pitch. The change provided more opportunity for pitcher development. It can't be understated that the softball pitching delivery is a unique skill and needs focused development and game experience. The 10U fall test of concept was deemed successful and the same approach is planned for our spring 2022 season.

An additional change for spring will occur in our youngest division, 6U. These 5-6 year-old girls come to the league with a range of skills and experience, but mostly motivated to socialize with friends while being introduced to the sport. This division will continue to place a premium on fun, but we want to start developing the girls' hitting skills as well. Consequently, we will introduce an element of coach pitch part way through the season, but with a fall back on a tee to ensure the player makes contact and has a chance to run the bases. A by-product of this rule change may also help developing our coach pitchers too!

Tournament Team Updates

Once again, this past summer our league fielded a solid collection of tournament teams across all divisions. We hosted three 8U teams, Four 10U teams, two 12U, and two 14U summer teams. This expansive number of teams represents the largest collection of tournament teams our league has ever fielded signaling the desire of players and parents alike for more, high-intensity softball.

The ability to field so many teams represents the vibrant energy of the league as all of our tournament team players are drawn from registered league players. Each team realized success in different measure ranging from wins against some of the most competitive, elite, open-level competition, to the unbridled thrill that came from a single (yes, one) game victory for the tournament season!



The fall 2021 tournament team campaign has been equally productive. Similar to our recreation season, the fall tournament season is usually an adjustment period for many players who may be starting out at the more competitive level of play or may be advancing to the next age division. WUSA hosted teams in the 8U, 10U (two teams), 12U and 14U divisions. Each team has played between 3 – 6 tournament weekends starting mid-September through November.

Our WUSA teams and families continued to build on the growing, positive reputation our league holds among the Houston area softball community as an exceptional environment to learn and play softball. If you are new to the league and want more information

about the tournament team component of our league, reach out to our WUSA helpline (www.wusahelp.com).



WUSA Field Use Maximization and Facilities Upgrades

As the league has grown, we are approaching spring season capacity based solely on field space usage by all the teams. While no WUSA games or practices have traditionally been scheduled at our Bayland Park campus (6400 Bissonnet St.), WUSA maintains the rights to use the fields and they may become a location for activities for Spring 2022 as we watch enrollment numbers.

Additionally, we recognize the need for safe warm-up space at South Campus. This spring, we will establish dedicated warm-up space for pre-game throwing and pitching as a test of concept by placing a temporary fence at a shorter distance on Field #1. The space between the temporary and current fence will be accessible for pre-game warm-ups and should improve safety by eliminating throwing in the common areas. If the test is successful, a more permanent modification to the facilities will follow.

Lastly, our existing facilities are showing some age and while we continue planning for substantial updates, we will refresh the paint work and batting facilities this winter. An expansion of the South Campus concession building and additional covered pavilion between Fields 4&5 are still planned and we're continuing with preliminary work WUSA seeks donations to support these projects. Contact us if you are interested in contributing to WUSA's capital campaign, including naming rights opportunities.

Sponsorships

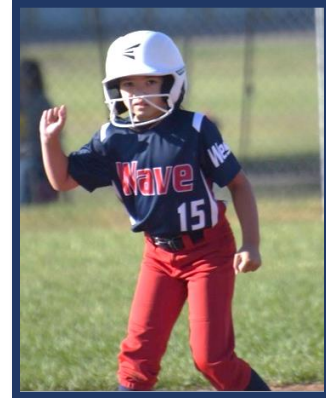


We are deeply appreciative for our sponsors who helped us provide great softball experiences to our WUSA families this past year. Please support [our sponsors](#) from 2021 and consider sponsorship for 2022. In addition to [team sponsorships](#) that are required of each team in the spring league, WUSA has several sponsorship options at different price points and can create customized sponsorship opportunities to meet a sponsor's specific interest. To discuss sponsorships, please [contact us](#).

From all of us at WUSA, we hope you enjoy the memories of the fall season and accept our best wishes for a peaceful December as we look ahead to Spring 2022.

Michael Liebl

WUSA Executive Vice President



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Spring 2022 Regular Registration Opens - November 21, 2021
- Spring 2022 Late Registration - January 2, 2022 - January 5, 2022
- Spring Player Evaluations – Jan 7-9 (date will vary by division/weather)
- Division / team Meetings – Jan 12 – 13th (date will vary by division)
- Spring practices begin – Week of Jan 17th
- Parade and Carnival – February 5th

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

[Winter-Spring 2021](#)

[Fall 2020](#)

[Summer 2020](#)

[Spring 2020](#)

[Winter 2019](#)

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