

# Pop Flyer

The Official Newsletter of the Hiawatha Kids League – Fall Edition – 2023



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## Letter from the Commissioner

Hello,

My name is Scott Bader and I have been chosen to be the Commissioner again this season and to lead our great Board of Directors. We have lost a couple and added a new face to the board, and it looks to be an exciting year. If you have a desire to serve on the board please contact me, as we still have plenty of room on the board. We are currently hard at work getting things ready for the 2024 season.

I would like to say that my line of communication is open to all parents, players, grounds keepers, umpires, and all volunteers. If you would like to volunteer in any way, please contact me or one of the Board members. Without Volunteerism this league does not exist, so please volunteer your time.

One of my main goals as Commissioner is to see that your child is safe while playing in this league. We will continue with complete background checks on all HKL volunteers, adults 18 years of age and older. I want our players to come back year after year to enjoy the experience and learn the concept of team sports. We are always looking for more kids, so if you know of a neighbor or friend, please invite them to join the league.

The City Council, the Parks and Rec Dept, and all of our city leaders deserve a big round of THANKS, for their partnership over the years, but most of all I want to thank you the Parents and the Players, without you our league fails to exist. With your help and the support of the entire Community, we can continue to supply our children with a safe environment and enjoy playing the greatest game in the world, Baseball and Softball.

Thanks,  
Scott Bader  
Hiawatha Kids League Commissioner



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**Facebook** Our group on Facebook has grown to over 600 members and continues to be a great source of communication between the Board and parents. It served as a reminder outlet for important dates throughout the 2023 season and a means of communicating the postponement or cancellation of games.

We want to keep this as a positive means of communication for everyone involved in HKL. We ask that you please direct any concerns directly to the Board rather than use social media. Thank you to everyone that has joined and shared our page.

## 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



### Team Sponsors for the 2023 Season

SPONSOR NAME	
CCB Packaging	Iowa Eye Care
Cook Fence Co.	Jaclyn Neyens Realtor, exp Realty
Culver's Frozen Custard & Butterburgers	JP Plumbing & Heating
EXIT Eastern Iowa Real Estate	Mathnasium Learning Center
Farmers State Bank	Oscar's Restaurant
Hiawatha Bank & Trust Co.	Pecks Landscaping
Hiawatha Chiropractic	Price Industrial Electric
Hiawatha Fire Dept.	Rossi Babington Realtor, Pinnacle Realty
Hiawatha Legion Post 735	Scott's Family Restaurant
Hiawatha Lions Club	Servpro
Hiawatha Police Dept.	Steve Emig Realtor/ Skogman

The Hiawatha Kids League would like to thank all our sponsors. Each of these sponsors, through their league sponsorship fee, supports our program and the core beliefs that HKL is an instructional league promoting skills, friendship and sportsmanship. Please patronize these sponsors and the next time you stop in one of their businesses, say thank you for supporting HKL.

### Financial Aid

Our Financial Aid program is available for families who qualify to receive a partial/full league scholarship, so every child can play ball. Our community over the years has demonstrated a great deal of generosity and kindness, and as such there is money set aside to fund scholarship opportunities. Through these donations HKL was able to award scholarships in 2023 to 14 children. If you think you might be a family who is in need of assistance with fees, please contact Peg Bader at 393-9175 for an application or go to our website at [www.hiawathakidsleague.com](http://www.hiawathakidsleague.com).

**2023 Year – End Tournament Results** - This past season we had 6 divisions: 4 teams of Girls Coach Pitch/T-Ball (AK, K & 1st grades), 4 teams of Girls Machine Pitch (2nd, 3rd, & 4th grades), 2 teams of Girls Majors (5th, 6th, & 7th grades), 5 teams of Boys Coach Pitch/T-Ball (AK, K & 1st Grade), 4 teams Boys Machine Pitch (2nd & 3rd grades), 5 teams of Boys Majors (4th, 5th, & 6th grades). Our Year-End Tournament was held on Saturday, July 9th with the following results:

Girls Coach Pitch T-Ball	Winner – Culvers Frozen Custard & Butterburgers	Runner Up – Jaclyn Neyens Realtor
Girls Machine Pitch	Winner – Hiawatha Bank & Trust	Runner-Up – Hiawatha Chiropractor
Girls Majors	Winner – Hiawatha Legion Post 735	Runner-Up – Rossi Babbington Realtor
Boys Coach Pitch	Winner – Oscar's Restaurant	Runner-Up – Farmer's State Bank
Boys Machine Pitch	Winner – Steve Emig Realtor/Skogman	Runner-Up – Mathnasium Learning Center
Boys Majors	Winner – JP Plumbing & Heating	Runner-Up – Exit Eastern Iowa Real Estate

**Concession Stand Wrap-Up** - During the past season, the concession stand was open every night during regular season games and year-end tournaments. During regular season games, over 100 volunteers helped make our concession stand successful. We asked each coach to find four parents from their team roster to cover one 3-hour shift in the stand. Board members also contributed many hours to the concession stand each week to assist with opening and closing nightly. Without these volunteers and Board members donating their time, our stand would not have been able to assist with offsetting expenses associated with players and our league. Our league does not require our players to fundraise to offset costs. **WE RELY ON VOLUNTEERS.** This past season the concession stand realized a net profit of over \$7000. This was only possible because volunteers honored their commitment to work a shift. The funds raised allow the league to keep our registration fees as low as possible. We would like to thank all the parents, family members, and Board members who offered time. **Your support does make a difference!**



## **A NEW YEAR HAS JUST BEGUN**

Our Annual Meeting was held on Monday August 28, 2023 at the Hiawatha Public Library. At this meeting, the Board of Directors heard many positive, constructive comments about the past season. Our operating budget was approved. The following individuals will make up the Board of Directors for 2024:

New Board			
Name	Position	Phone #	Term Ends
Scott Bader	Commissioner	(319) 310-8307	2024
Dustin Robison	Assistant Commissioner	(319) 431-0088	2024
Peggie Bader	Secretary	(319) 393-9175	2024
Dick Bader	Treasurer	(319) 393-9175	2024
Kent Guthrie	Board Member	(319) 329-1336	2024
Chuck McDonald	Board Member	(319) 202-5077	2024
Rob Morrow	Board Member	(816) 885-6198	2024
Lana Robison	Board Member	(319) 329-1737	2024

These individuals are working very hard to continue to provide a quality program for your child. Our league has many committees: Audit, Budget, Clinics (Coaches & Pitching), Concession Stand, Equipment, Field & Grounds (Clean Up Days), Newsletter (Fall & Spring), Parent Meetings, Pictures, Recruiting/Advertising, Rules, Schedules, Tournament, Umpires, Uniforms and Website Administration. There are many opportunities to help out! If you have a “knack” for helping with something listed or any other way, please contact one of the Board members for additional information on how to help. ***There is strength in numbers so please consider how you can help.***

## **Board Member Profiles**

**Peg Bader** – I have served on the HKL Board for more than 42 years and will be the Secretary again this year. I will also be running the concession stand, ordering all the shirts and hats/visors, and organizing picture day. I have been married to Dick for almost 53 years and have 3 grown children, 6 Grandchildren and 2 Great Grandchildren. Feel free to call me with your questions. Looking forward to seeing all of you in the park!

**Dick Bader** – I came back to the HKL Board in the Treasurer's position for the 2018-2019 season after a four-year hiatus. This will be my 6<sup>th</sup> season since returning. I have previously served on the board as a Board Member, Commissioner, and most recently as Treasurer. Since I have been married to Peggie, the HKL Secretary, for almost 53 years, I have been involved with the HKL in one way or another for over 40 years.

**Scott Bader** – I have been involved in this league for most of my life in one way or another, from playing in it, to coaching in it, to being a Board member, to working as a groundskeeper, and umpiring in it. I look forward to working with the kids and parents to make this a fun experience for all!

**Kent Guthrie** - I have been involved in the HKL since 2006 as a coach, assistant coach, girls fast pitch coach, and board member. My three kids grew up playing in the league. I enjoy the opportunity to be a mentor and positive influence through coaching sports.

**Chuck McDonald** – Chuck has been the head of the umpire committee for the past few seasons and will continue to be involved with the umpires in the 2024 season. Chuck continues to have some health concerns. Please join us in wishing Chuck the best of luck in getting back to normal activities. We are looking forward to seeing him in the park this coming summer. Get well soon Chuck!

**Lana and Dustin Robison** – This will be our second year serving on the HKL Board and will be our 3rd year with the league. We have 3 children, 2 who play in the HKL, and one who umps. We are a baseball family through and through and are looking forward to another great season! We are always in the park, and happy to answer any questions you may have at any time. Enjoy the last of 2023, and we'll see you in the park in 2024!

**Robert Morrow** – After watching my family members work hard with the HKL and for the community over the last few years I decided to lend a hand myself. This year I have chosen to take on working with the groundskeepers and keeping fields in the best condition for playing possible. My two daughters are nearing the age to start playing in the HKL as well and I look forward to getting to be part of their softball journey with the HKL!

## **HKL Divisions for 2024 Season**

Unfortunately, during the 2023 season HKL was again not able to put together a Boys Seniors team. We only had 3 players in the 7th, 8th, or 9th grades sign up. Because of this we are eliminating the Boys Senior Division for 2024. The goal, as always, is to have enough teams so we can have our own league and not have to travel to Marion or Cedar Hills which would also allow the teams to play in the HKL Early Bird Tournament and the Year End Tournament.

Division	Director Name	Phone Number
Boys Coach Pitch/T-Ball: K-1	Dustin Robison	(319) 431-0088
Boys Machine Pitch: 2-3	Rob Morrow	(816) 885-6198
Boys Majors: 4-6	Rob Morrow	(816) 885-6198
Girls Coach Pitch/T-Ball: K-1	Lana Robison	(319) 431-0088
Girls Machine Pitch: 2-4	Lana Robison	(319) 431-0088
Girls Majors: 5-7	Kent Guthrie	(319) 329-1336



## **Registration for 2024**

[Registration forms](#) for the 2024 playing season are now available at the HKL website and linked to this document. You can [sign-up online](#) by clicking the link, scanning the **QR Code** to the right, or by going to our website for online registration information. Paper forms may also be found at the Hiawatha Water Department. Forms will also be distributed through the schools the first week in January (to those schools who have not yet gone green, otherwise they will be distributed through email). We are always looking for more players, both girls and boys, especially in the older divisions.



**Please note that registrations received before January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, will be guaranteed placement on a team.** There are several decisions to be made on the number of kids who play in the league. It takes a lot of time to coordinate all these details. By having this information by the **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, deadline**, the Board can make decisions more promptly.

### **We are offering multiple ways to register your children:**

1. You may drop off the completed registration form and payment at the Hiawatha Water Department any Monday through Friday from 8:00am - 4:00pm. They also have additional forms available onsite.
2. Mail form and payment to: Hiawatha Kids League, PO Box 203, Hiawatha, Iowa 52233.
3. We now have an [online signup](#) application. Click on the QR code or go to the website to access this form.

## **Selection Format for Teams**

Team Selections are performed with Board members present and in conjunction with the following:

1. The kids are divided by division and then by grade.
2. Coach's child (children), Assistant coach's child, and sponsor child (children) are placed on teams and their sign-up sheets are placed first on the table face down.
3. The remaining sign-up sheets are divided by grade, shuffled and placed face down on the table.
4. Sign-up sheets are added to each team (face down) by grade until there are an equal number of players from each grade on each team. The balance of the sign-up sheets for each grade are distributed evenly to the teams until each grade is complete. In this manner teams should be within one of having the same number from any grade on each team.
5. The sign-up sheets are then clipped together and given to the HKL Secretary who completes the process by loading information into the computer and printing the rosters.
6. Sign-up sheets that arrive after the team selection is complete will be placed on teams, as openings exist. If more kids have signed up than there are openings, they will be put on a waiting list and placed on teams when and if positions become available.

## **The Buddy Program**

The Buddy Program is one way to have friends and neighbors join our league. We all know that kids like to play with their buddies and having a buddy on the team encourages children to participate. The Buddy Program is intended for returning players (2023 season) to bring in a buddy who has not played in HKL before. ***In order to participate in the Buddy Program, the following must be done:***

1. Send **both** registration forms and the fees together if possible or put a note on the bottom of your signup with your buddy's name.
2. The players must be in the same division.
3. Only one buddy will be allowed per child for the 2024 season.

If you have additional questions about the Buddy Program, please contact Peg Bader at 393-9175.

## **Alternative Kindergarten**

The Board of Directors is continuing to allow children who have completed Alternative Kindergarten to play in our Coach Pitch/T-Ball divisions. This means that any child that turned 5 on or before September 15, 2018 will be allowed to play in the Hiawatha Kids League in 2024. It will allow more children to get a jump on their love of the game. It is our hope that this will allow HKL to form more teams and make things more exciting for all of our players. We will require a copy of the birth certificate with the registration form for your AK child to play in this division. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact a board member.

## **Mark Your Calendar – Important Dates**

**All these dates are tentative and may change as the season approaches:**

**2024 Registration Deadline:** January 31, 2024, for guaranteed spot, open until at least April 1, 2024, for late registration (not guaranteed)

**Coaches & Parents Meeting:** April 6, 2024: Coaches at 8:00 & 10:30 and Parents at 9:15

**Practices Begin:** April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Scrimmages:** The week of May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Games Begin:** Week of May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Early Bird Tournament:** Friday May 31<sup>st</sup> and Saturday June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Year-End Tournament:** Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, rain dates July 15<sup>th</sup> through July 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Park Cleanup Days:** Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please put these dates on your calendars now. Players, parents, coaches and spectators enjoy the tournaments and it's great when all players are available for tournament play. Players are together all season long and form a tight bond as a team. They rely on each other for strength. When someone is not available for tournament play, the strength of the team is weakened. Coaches and team members count on everyone being available for tournament play. We provide these dates to you now as a way to assist you with your summer planning.



**Grounds Crew** – HKL is looking to hire individuals to serve as our Grounds Crew for the 2024 playing season. We are looking for individuals at least 18 years of age but will consider 16 year olds for some of the positions. All must have a valid driver's license, and some experience with machinery and field work as well as knowing how to set up a ball diamond is helpful. A background check will be completed prior to hire on anyone over 18. Date of employment is April – July but we may be able to work around your availability date. If you are interested in being part of the grounds crew, please send a letter and resume to HKL, Attn: Scott Bader, PO Box 203, Hiawatha, IA 52233.

**Umpires** – HKL hires umpires for the playing season. All umpires participate in a training class to be held in the spring on three dates, usually on a Friday or a Saturday (TBD), prior to the season starting. Qualifications to umpire: must be **at least 14 years old by April 1, 2024** and have a good understanding of baseball and/or softball. **We would like to encourage as many adults as possible to participate in officiating games.** Schedules are very flexible! You can officiate one game a week or 4 if you would like. A background check will be completed on all applicants over the age of 18 prior to hire. If you are interested in becoming an umpire for HKL, an [umpire application](#) is available on our website or simply click on the umpire application link. Fill out and mail to the address at the bottom of the application. Additional questions about umpiring can be directed to the Hiawatha Kids League at (319)393-9175 or by email to [hklsecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:hklsecretary@yahoo.com).

### **HKL Volunteers – WE NEED YOU!**

There are many ways to offer your assistance, such as coaching, umpiring, becoming a “team parent” or working the concession stand, just to name a few. If you are interested in volunteering your time in some way, please be sure to note it on your child's registration form or contact Peg Bader at 393-9175.



The **Concession Stand** is a major source of income, and it allows HKL to keep its registration and sponsor fees as low as possible. HKL assigns each team one night (12 total hours of volunteering), of the entire playing season, to work in the concession stand. The team's night is not one of their game nights (allowing parents to witness every exciting play from the stands and not from the concession window). HKL estimates that each coach will volunteer approximately 45-65 hours (depending upon division) in coaching your players. Please assist your coach by signing up to work a 3-hour shift. Each coach (or team parent) will be requesting **four adults** from their team to work this one night. The time to work is 5:30 – 8:30pm. In order for HKL to keep the concession stand open for every night of play, we need parents to volunteer at least one night in the concession stand. This is only a 3-hour commitment once a year. **When signing up to work a shift, please honor the commitment to work.** For insurance and safety reasons, you must be 18 years old to work, and **children are not allowed** in the concession stand.

### **Pitching Clinics**

During our 2023 season, the HKL hosted pitching clinics at Guthridge Park on Friday nights throughout the season. There was much improvement among all the girls who participated. These were tremendous steps in the right direction for the HKL, as it allowed each team to compete with one another and every girl to have more fun. Thank you so much to our volunteer Kent Guthrie who committed his time to helping the girls learn some fundamentals and improve their overall pitching mechanics.