

# Pop Flyer

***The Official Newsletter of the  
Hiawatha Kids League***

***Fall Edition - 2025***





## LETTER FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Hello,

My name is Scott Bader and I have, once again, been chosen to be the Commissioner of this awesome league and to lead our great Board of Directors. The Board has been reviewing last year, talking about the rules, updating the signup forms, and prepping for the upcoming year. If you have a desire to serve on the board, please contact me, as we currently have room for 4 more people on the board. Without the parents stepping up to help run this league, we will not exist.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or concerns, so we can get issues handled in a timely fashion. I welcome feedback from 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 other Board members. **Without Volunteerism, the cost to play goes up or this league fails to exist, so please volunteer your time. A few ways is the concession stand, clean up days, or serving on the board.**

One of my main goals as Commissioner has been 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. 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



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 2025 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.

# THANK YOU!

## 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW TEAM SPONSORS FOR THE 2025 SEASON

- AM Glass Repair
- CCB Packaging
- Cook Fence Co.
- Culver's Frozen Custard & Butterburgers
- EXIT Eastern Iowa Real Estate
- Farmers State Bank
- Hanna Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
- Hiawatha Bank & Trust Co.
- Hiawatha Chiropractic
- Hiawatha Fire Dept. (2)
- Hiawatha Legion Post 735 (2)
- Hiawatha Lions Club
- Hiawatha Police Dept.
- Iowa Eye Care
- Jaclyn Neyens Realtor, Pinnacle Realty
- JP Plumbing & Heating
- Mathnasium Learning Center
- Oscar's Restaurant
- Paw Control Wildlife Solutions
- Pecks Landscaping
- Price Industrial Electric
- Scott's Family Restaurant
- Servpro
- Steve Emig Realtor/Skogman

The Hiawatha Kids League would like to thank all of 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 2025 to 3 children. If you think you might be a family who is in need of assistance with fees, please contact Peg Bader at 319-393-9175 for an application. Or go to our website at [www.hiawathakidsleague.com](http://www.hiawathakidsleague.com).

## 2025 YEAR-END TOURNAMENT RESULTS

This past season we had 6 divisions: 3 teams of Girls Coach Pitch/T-Ball (AK, K & 1st grade), 4 teams of Girls Machine Pitch (2nd, 3rd & 4th grades), 2 teams of Girls Majors (5th, 6th, 7th & 8th grades), 7 teams of Boys Coach Pitch/T-Ball (AK, K & 1st grade), 5 teams of Boys Machine Pitch (2nd & 3rd grades), 5 teams of Boys Majors (4th, 5th & 6th grades). Our Year-End Tournament was held on Saturday, July 13th with the following results:

Girls Coach Pitch/T-Ball	Winner - Jaclyn Neyens Realtor, Pinnacle Realty	Runner Up - Oscar's Restaurant
Girls Machine Pitch	Winner - Scott's Family Restaurant	Runner Up - Hiawatha Bank & Trust Co.
Boys Coach Pitch/T-Ball	Winner - Hiawatha Chiropractic	Runner Up - AM Glass Repair
Boys Machine Pitch	Winner - Price Electric	Runner Up - Mathnasium Learning Center
Boys Majors	Winner - JP Plumbing & Heating	Runner Up - Paw Control Wildlife Solutions

## CONCESSION STAND WRAP-UP

During the past season, the concession stand was open every night during regular season games and year-end tournaments. During the 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 \$8,400. 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 26, 2025 at the Hiawatha City Hall. 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 2026.

NAME	POSITION	PHONE NUMBER	TERM ENDS
Scott Bader	Commissioner	(319) 310-8307	2026
Dustin Robison	Assistant Commissioner	(319) 431-0088	2027
Peggie Bader	Secretary	(319) 393-9175	2026
Dick Bader	Treasurer	(319) 393-9175	2026
Kent Guthrie	Board Member	(319) 329-1336	2026
Lana Robison	Board Member	(319) 329-1737	2027
Andrea Perkins	Board Member	(712) 355-2280	2027
Billy Perkins	Board Member	(319) 310-7942	2027
Eric Strickell	Board Member	(319) 610-7670	2026
Kevin James	Board Member	(319) 899-7530	2026

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 in another 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 been around HKL for over 40 years. I enjoy all of happy faces that come to the concession stand for a treat. I have kids, grandkids and great grandkids that have played in Hiawatha Kids League over the last 40 years. I hope to see you all on the ball diamonds in the 2026 ball season!

**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 8th 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 55 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, being an umpire, to now leading it. I look forward to working with the kids and parents to make this a fun and safe experience for all!

**Kent Guthrie** - I have been a head coach in the HKL since 2008 and the league's softball pitching coach since 2017. I was elected to the board in 2022. I am passionate about mentoring young athletes, helping them grow in skill, confidence, and teamwork in a supportive environment.

**Lana & Dustin Robison** - This will be our fourth year serving on the HKL Board and will be our fifth year with the league. We have 3 children, 2 who play in the league, and one who umps for the league. 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. See you in the park!

**Andrea Perkins** - This will be my third year serving on the HKL Board and the third year for my daughter to play on a league. The last couple of years I have taken on the unofficial term of "Dugout Mom" for my daughter's team and I love it! Being able to get to know the kids and watch them learn the game is fun! I am also excited to design the newsletter again this year. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the park!

**Billy Perkins** - This is my second year serving on the HKL Board and the third year for my daughter to play on a league. My wife Andrea and I have always been involved with baseball with our son, and we are excited to watch our daughter play with HKL for years to come and to work with the kids and parents to make this a fun experience for all.

**Kevin James** - I played in the HKL back in the 1980s. When my children began playing in the HKL I decided to coach. This last year I joined the HKL board and am enjoying learning all the ins and outs of making the league a success. I enjoy volunteering and am looking forward to seeing everyone at the ballpark.

**Eric Strickell** - I've lived in the Cedar Rapids area for about five years, and my kids have been part of the Hiawatha Kids League for the past three. As a board member, I enjoy helping create a fun, positive, and well-run experience for all the kids and families in our community. When I'm not at the ballpark, I'm usually spending time with family or watching football!

## HKL DIVISIONS FOR 2026 SEASON

Division	Director Name	Phone Number
Boys Coach Pitch/T-Ball: AK-1	Kevin James	(319) 899-7530
Boys Machine Pitch: 2-3	Andrea Perkins	(712) 355-2280
Boys Majors: 4-6	Billy Perkins	(319) 310-7942
Girls Coach Pitch/T-Ball: AK-1	Kent Guthrie	(319) 329-1336
Girls Machine Pitch: 2-4	Lana Robison	(319) 329-1737
Girls Majors: 5-8	Eric Strickell	(319) 610-7670

# REGISTRATION FOR 2026

Registration forms for the 2026 playing season are now available on 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, 2026 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 of these details. By having this information by the **January 31, 2026 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 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. 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 (children), 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 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.

## **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 (2025 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 sign-up 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 2026 season.
4. Also two new children to our league for this season can be buddies.

If you have additional questions about the Buddy Program, please contact Peg Bader at 319-393-9175.

## 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, 2025 will be allowed to play in the Hiawatha Kids League in 2026. 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 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 Peg Bader at (319) 393-9175 or email at [hklsecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:hklsecretary@yahoo.com).



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

**2026 Registration Deadline:** January 31, 2026, for guaranteed spot, open until at least April 1, 2026 for late registration (not guaranteed)

**Coaches & Parents Meeting:** March 28, 2026: Coaches at 8:00 & 10:30 and Parents at 9:15

**Practices Begin:** April 13<sup>th</sup>

**Scrimmages:** The week of May 11<sup>th</sup>

**Practices:** The week of May 18<sup>th</sup>

**Games Begin:** May 26<sup>th</sup>

**Early Bird Tournament:** Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

**Year End Tournament:** Friday, July 10<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, Rain dates July 13<sup>th</sup> through July 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Park Cleanup Days:** Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> → *Please bring rakes, shovels, leaf blowers, gloves, etc.*

Please put these dates on your calendar 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.

# WE'RE HIRING



**Grounds Crew** - HKL is looking to hire individuals to serve as our Grounds Crew for the 2026 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 cover 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 Saturday (TBD), prior to the season starting. Qualifications to umpire: must be **at least 14 years old by April 1, 2026** 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).

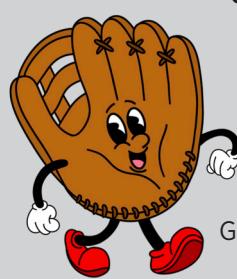
## HKL VOLUNTEERS - WE NEED YOU!

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 - 8:30 PM. 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 2025 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. There 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.



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