



## Executive Board

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Tom Drohner  
Border Battle Coordinator  
District 1, Division 1

Brittany Carl  
District 3, Division 1

Brad Ceranski  
District 1, Divisions 4,5

Jeff Hodson  
District 3, Divisions 4,5

Jared Faherty  
All-Star Coordinator

Melinda Hull  
Awards Director

Morgan Stenslein  
District 1, Divisions 2,3

John Garvey  
District 2, Division 1

Scott Ritzema  
District 4, Divisions 2,3

# THE LINE DRIVE

JANUARY 2025

Happy New Year! As we begin 2025, the WFSCA is committed to advancing fastpitch softball in the state of Wisconsin. Clinic coordinator, Cindy Suess, has prepared another great coaches clinic at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells on February 1-2 with a stellar lineup of clinicians. On Saturday evening, we will honor the outstanding careers of four new Hall of Fame members at the induction banquet, an inspiring event organized by HOF coordinator Jeff Agnew, followed by the coaches social in the vendor hall. Coaches are encouraged to bring their families to enjoy the indoor water park. If you're like me, the annual WFSCA Coaches Clinic is the unofficial start to the new season!

There are significant changes for Softball in 2025. The WIAA has extended the state Softball tournament into a four-day event beginning on Wednesday with the Division One quarterfinals. NFHS has passed a rule allowing one-way electronic communication to the catcher from the dugout just as they had for Baseball previously. WFSCA will continue to work with Chad Schulz, the new WIAA Assistant Director overseeing Softball, to smoothly implement these advancements to our game.

The WFSCA is one of the strongest coaches associations in our state, and that comes from the dedication of our coaches who share this passion for high school softball. Our high level of membership empowers us with the WIAA as we advocate for policies that benefit our sport. WFSCA awards such as All-District/All-State, selection for the Senior All-Star game, or induction into the Hall of Fame gain their legitimacy from the participation of coaches like you. The WFSCA board takes pride in leading the way as we all work together to advance Softball in Wisconsin.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any of the board members with thoughts or concerns about WFSCA. We are here to make the high school softball experience special for our athletes, and we welcome your input. We look forward to seeing you at the clinic in February!

Sincerely,  
John P. Ruffolo, WFSCA President



## SAVE THE 2025 DATES

- March 17: March 17: Earliest Day for Practice
- March 22: March 22: Earliest Scrimmage
- March 25: March 25: Earliest Day for First Game
- April 27: April 27: Senior All-Star Nominations Due
- May 22, 27, 29: May 22, 27, 29: Regionals for Division 2 through Division 5
- May 27, 29: May 27, 29: Regionals for Division 1
- June 3, 5: June 3,5: Sectionals
- June 6: June 6: All-District/All-State Nominations Due
- June 11, 12,13,14: June 11, 12,13,14: State Tournament
- June 20: June 20: Academic All-State Nominations Due
- June 21: June 21: Coaches Awards Due

## SAVE THE 2025 DATES



# Wisconsin Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association

## COACHES SURVEY RESULTS : YOUR INPUT MATTERS

The WIAA has convened an ad hoc committee to study season length, game maximums and coaching contact. WFSCA conducted a survey of head coaches last spring on these issues so that we can advocate for our sport if and when any decisions are made that could impact Softball. Below is an overview of the survey results. 187 head coaches responded.

**GAME MAXIMUM:** 83% of respondents support the current 26-game regular season maximum.

**SEASON LENGTH:** 70% of respondents support the current season length of 13 weeks. 27% would like the season length to be longer.

**SEASON START DATE:** 52% of respondents support the current season start date on Monday of week 37 on the WIAA calendar. 31% would like the season start date to be later.

**STATE TOURNAMENT DATE:** 69% of respondents support the state tournament being held in week 49 of the WIAA calendar. 21% would like the state tournament to be held later.

**CANCELLATIONS DUE TO WEATHER:** 88% of respondents report that their program cancels four or fewer games each year due to weather.

**SEASON DATES - ATHLETE IMPACT:** 72% of respondents believe that some athletes would not come out for Softball if the season were extended into the summer.

**SEASON DATES - COACH IMPACT:** 52% of respondents believe that some coaches would choose not to coach high school softball if the season were extended into the summer.

**COACH CONTACT RULES:** 54% of respondents believe that WIAA coach-player contact rules for Softball are too restrictive. 46% of respondents believe the current rules are adequate.

**COACH CONTACT RULES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR:** 80% of respondents believe that the WIAA should allow five or more coach contact days during the school calendar year.

WFSCA will continue to follow the WIAA Ad-Hoc committee and work to make sure our membership is represented in response to any proposals.



## ALL-DISTRICT AND ALL-STATE TEAMS

The All-District Teams for medium and small schools will be comprised of 18 selections and broken down in the following manner:

- Pitchers - 1
- Catchers - 2
- Infielders - 4
- Outfielders - 3
- At-Large ( Players from any position) - 9

At the All-State level, an 18 member 1st and 2nd team will be recognized for the large, medium, and small schools, along with Honorable Mention selections.

Division 1 will have a prorated number of selections based on the membership in each district.

It is important to remember this is a WFSCA selection process so only athletes from schools in which the head coach is a current member are eligible.



# Districts and Conferences

## DIVISION 1

### District 1 - Tom Drohner

Big Rivers  
Lake Superior  
Mississippi Valley  
Wisconsin Valley

### District 2 - John Garvey

Bay Conference  
Fox River Classic  
Fox Valley  
North Shore

### District 3 - Brittany Carl

Badger Large  
Badger Small  
Big Eight  
Classic Eight

### District 4 - John Ruffolo

Greater Metro  
Milwaukee City  
Southeast  
Southern Lakes  
Woodland East  
Woodland West

## DIVISIONS 2 & 3

### District 1 - Morgan Stenslein

Big Rivers  
Cloverbelt East  
Coulee  
Mississippi Valley  
Dunn-St. Croix  
Heart O'North  
Cloverbelt West  
Lakeland West  
Middle Border  
Wisconsin Valley

### District 2 - Melinda Hull

Bay Conference  
Central WI East  
Marinette & Oconto  
North Eastern  
Fox River Classic  
North Shore  
Packerland  
East Central  
Great Northern

### District 3 - Jane Briehl

Badger Small  
South Central  
Classic Eight  
South West WI  
Six Rivers East  
Capitol North  
Rock Valley

### District 4 - Scott Ritzema

Big East  
Southern Lakes  
Capitol South  
Eastern WI  
Woodland West  
Midwest Classic  
Milwaukee City  
Trailways South  
Wisconsin Flyway  
Woodland East  
Metro Classic

## DIVISIONS 4 & 5

### District 1 - Brad Ceranski

Cloverbelt East  
Cloverbelt West  
Coulee  
Dairyland  
Dunn-St. Croix  
Heart O'North  
Lakeland East  
Lakeland West

### District 2 - Sue Stoltenberg

Central WI East  
Central WI West  
Central WI South  
Indianhead  
Marawood North  
Marawood South  
Marinette & Oconto  
Northern Lakes  
Packerland

### District 3 - Jeff Hodgson

Ridge & Valley  
SWAL  
Six Rivers East  
Scenic Bluffs  
Six Rivers West

### District 4 - Cindy Suess

Big East  
Capitol South  
Eastern WI  
Metro Classic  
Trailways North  
Trailways South  
Wisconsin Flyway



# 2025 COACHES CLINIC



**Ashley Burkhart**

Owner - Ashley Burkhart Training  
Former Purdue University Player



**Doug Gillis**

Pitching Coach - University of Evansville  
Former TEam USA Pitcher



**Cassie  
Reilly-Boccia**

Sports Performance Specialist & Owner -  
Athletes Warehouse  
Former University of Alabama Player

## SPEAKERS

**[WWW.WFSCA.ORG](http://WWW.WFSCA.ORG)**

Registration for membership and the clinic, along with additional speaker information is on our website.

**[WWW.WFSCA.ORG](http://WWW.WFSCA.ORG)**



# Hall of Fame Inductions

VIRGIL BERNDT : MEDFORD HS

*Presented by: His children (Mandy, Tyler, and Samantha)*



Virgil will be entering his 35th year as the head coach in Medford. He got his start in coaching in Foley MN. In addition to coaching softball in Medford, he has taught at the middle school for over 30 years, and coached various other sports at all levels. While coaching softball at Medford High School, Virgil has won 429 games, 10 conference championships, 7 regional titles, and 2 sectional championships. He has also been named conference Coach of the Year 10 times. Virgil has coached in the WFSCA All Star Game 3 times - twice as the head coach and once as an assistant. He has served as a conference representative to the WFSCA for many years.

Virgil has been married to his wife, Cindy, for 38 years. Together they have 3 children - Mandy, Tyler and Samantha - and 6 grandchildren - Gannen, Sawyer, Savannah, Raya, Carson, and Jackson.

*Presented by: Melinda Hull*

Tony Porath started coaching softball in 1994 at the JV Level in New London. In 1995 he took over the varsity reins for the next 28 years (1995-2017, 2019-2023). During the 28 years his overall record was 418-197 and Bay Conference record of 253-110. New London's success included: 1 State Championship (2013), 3 State Runner-ups (2005, 2014, 2023), 8 State Appearances (2005, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2022, 2023), 9 regional championships (1995, 2005, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2022, 2023), and 9 Conference Championships (1998, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023). Coach Porath coached 2 Senior All-Star Teams (2005, 2017), coached over 70 1st Team All-Conference Players, 7 Bay Conference Players of the year, and 4 - 1st team All-State players.

Tony was a Physical Education teacher for the New London School District for 32 years before retiring in 2023. Tony has coached over 75 seasons of various sports throughout the years ranging from middle school basketball and football, high school boys and girls basketball, high school football and softball. Tony is still coaching New London High School Tennis. Tony dedicates his teams' success to his family, coaches and all the talented players that have been a part of the program.

Tony has been married to his wonderful wife Missy for 30 years and has 3 children. Sam is a UW-Whitewater grad and recently married to wife Tori. Leah is a UW-Oshkosh grad and was a 2 time Bay Conference player of the year for New London Softball. Ben currently attends and plays basketball at Ripon College. Tony could not have coached for so many years without the support of his family.

Tony wants to thank all the coaches that have been part of New London's softball success at the varsity level which include Jeff Prey, Larry Bretl, Brian Rill, Jodi Brennan, Laura Turner, Dave Rohde and Melinda Hull. Tony would also like to thank his father-in-Law Marty Paulsen for all his guidance and especially the help with all the softball camps.



TONY PORATH : NEW LONDON HS



# Hall of Fame Inductions

ANN MOLSKI - PACELLI CATHOLIC HS

*Presented by: Her Husband (Mark Molski) and Assistant Coach (Stephanie Treichel)*



Ann Molski is entering her 21st year as the head softball coach at Pacelli. She started her coaching career at St. Peter's Middle School, coaching 8th grade girls basketball for two seasons in 1992/93. She was then brought up to help coach softball in the spring of '94 at Pacelli H.S. From '94-2000, Ann coached at various levels at the high school level. In 2000, Ann became one of the varsity assistant coaches, and in 2005, she became the varsity head coach. During her years as head coach, her teams have amassed a record of 384-90. They have won 4 WIAA State Championships: 2012 D3, 2015 D4, 2023 and 2024 D5. They were twice the state runner-up (2011 and 2017) and made 5 other state tournament appearances. Under Coach Molski's leadership, Pacelli has won 11 conference titles. In 2019 and 2023, Coach Molski was selected CWC-South Coach of the Year. She was inducted into the Pacelli Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019.

Ann has been a Pacelli Catholic Elementary School teacher for 33 years. She spent 25 years teaching 1st grade, 4 years teaching 2nd grade and is in her 4th year teaching 4th graders. She has had the pleasure of teaching former player's children and coaching former elementary students at the high school level.

Ann is married to Mark (Big Mo) for 32 years. They have two sons, Lucas (Kiersten) and Connor. When not coaching or teaching, Ann loves to spend time with her family, garden, read books, meet friends for coffee, and chat.

*Presented by: Pat Edlbeck*

Sue Stoltenberg is entering her 28th and potential final year of coaching. Sue began her coaching at Blair-Taylor High School as a volunteer assistant in 1990. In 1992 Sue made the move to Wausaukee and was the JV coach under Head Coach Steve Verboomen and Assistant Head Coach Jerry Slattery. 1996 saw the Lady Rangers win the D-4 State Title at the Waukesha Softball Complex. The following season, 1997, Sue took over the Varsity program and has been there since.

Sue's teaching career spanned a total of 35 years with 32 of those years at Wausaukee High School. She taught special education students for 14 years and then spent 18 years teaching U.S. History and Government.

Throughout the past 27 years the Lady Rangers have captured 10 M&O Conference Championships (the M&O Conference added softball in 2002), 17 Regional Championships, 5 Sectional Final appearances, and 2 State appearances. Her current coaching record is 313-183. Sue has also been named the Peshtigo Times Coach of the Year 3 times, in 2001, 2005, and 2016. Sue has also coached in the WFSCA All-Star series 2 times, has been a member of the WFSCA Board for 12 years, currently serving as the District 2 Representative (Small Schools), Newsletter Publisher and Board Secretary.

Sue has been married to her husband Jerry for the past 29 years. They both enjoy going to Packer games, golfing, and spending time with their dog Vince and cat Kramer. She would like to thank Jerry for all of his love, support, and encouragement.



SUE STOLTENBERG - WAUSAUKEE HS



# Hall of Fame Members

## Class of 2009

David Jones - Platteville  
Mary Lou Jones - Platteville  
Troy Acheson - Tennessee Tech,  
Whitnall  
Phillip Adam - Ashwaubenon  
Pete Kopplin - Marshfield  
Darrell Laschen - Loyal  
Debbie Mauleg - Marion

## Class of 2010

Greg Lampe - Oak Creek  
Bob LeCaptain - Denmark/GB West  
John Malin - Kimberly  
Russ Shaub - Middleton  
Bob Tomlinson - Poynette  
Rod Wilterdink - Cedarburg

## Class of 2011

Steve Ryan - Waunakee  
Diane Yager - Seneca  
Steve Schmikla - McFarland  
Jim Haines - Pepin

## Class of 2012

Mike Regner - LaCrosse  
Del Schneeberger - Johnson Creek  
Kris Allison - Westosha

## Class of 2013

Dale Buvid - Monroe  
Jim Turner - Altoona  
Paul Olson - Fort Atkinson

## Class of 2014

John Schroeder - Beloit Memorial  
Don Vruwink - Milton  
Glenda Smith - Tigerton

## Class of 2015

Tim Pederson - Amherst  
Bob Sulser - Madison Memorial,  
Beloit Turner  
Marvin Youngbeck - Mayville

## Class of 2016

Dave Keel - Homestead  
Roger Schlieve - Horicon  
Jim Wickert - McFarland,  
Madison College

## Class of 2017

Jeff Setz - Eisenhower  
Tim Hering - Whitewater  
Denny Coppernoll - River Valley

## Class of 2018

Cindy Suess - Verona, UW-Oshkosh  
Tom Drohner - Stevens Point  
Doug Mock - Oakfield  
Don Bjelland - Grantsburg

## Class of 2019

Dale Gray - Wisconsin Dells  
Jerry Cognaetta - Elmwood,  
UW-Stout  
Jim Kivisto - Hurley  
Ken Franke - Kewaskum, Mayville  
Sandy Waltzer - Antigo

## Class of 2020

John Peterson - Madison (WIAA)  
Joel Claassen - Pius  
Gary Haus - Rice Lake  
James (Louie) Lawinger - Hamilton,  
Platteville  
Dan Bayreuther - Janesville Craig

## Class of 2021

Jeff Agnew - Fort Atkinson,  
Jefferson  
Rich Anderson - Germantown,  
Brookfield East  
Jack Miller - Greenfield  
John Rosenberg - Muskego  
Ken Stille - Carthage College,  
Private Pitching Coach  
Tim Whitford - Winneconne

## Class of 2022

Janel Batten - Oshkosh West,  
Oshkosh East, Pulaski  
Patty Jansen - Watertown  
Stephanie Hauser - WIAA  
Jeff Hodgson - Belmont

## Class of 2023

Jane Briehl - Potosi, River Valley  
Brian Phelps - Gilman  
Todd Felch - Wausau East, Mosinee  
Bill Greskiw - Burlington Catholic

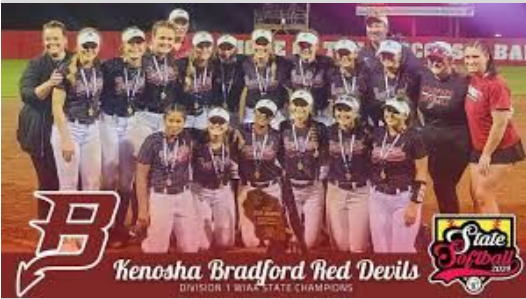
## Class of 2024

Tom Anderson - Necedah,  
Iola-Scandinavia  
Deb Braatz - Waterloo  
Tim Roehrig - Kaukauna  
Gene Van Dyck - Dodgeville



# STATE CHAMPIONS

## DIVISION 1



### KENOSHA BRADFORD

## DIVISION 2



### WAUPUN

# CONGRATULATIONS 2024 STATE QUALIFIERS

Kenosha Bradford	John Ruffolo
Cedarburg	Mark Jessup
Sun Prairie East	Jamie Olson
Watertown	Matthew Meracle
Kaukauna	Tim Roehrig
Hamilton	Kaylee Gendrich
Milton ( <i>Runner-Up</i> )	Kurt Mussey
New Richmond	Lynzi Knudtson

Division 1

Mosinee ( <i>Runner-Up</i> )	Cory Brietzke
Lake Mills	Jim Clift
New Berlin Eisenhower	Kaelyn Hogan
Waupun	Josh Navis

Division 2



## STATE CHAMPIONS

### DIVISION 3



Prescott Cardinals  
DIVISION 3 WIAA STATE CHAMPIONS

### PRESCOTT

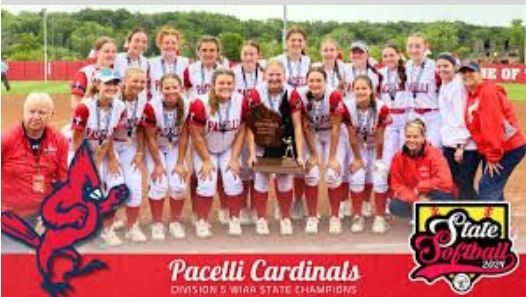
### DIVISION 4



Fall Creek Crickets  
DIVISION 4 WIAA STATE CHAMPIONS

### FALL CREEK

### DIVISION 5



Pacelli Cardinals  
DIVISION 5 WIAA STATE CHAMPIONS

### PACELLI

# CONGRATULATIONS 2024 STATE QUALIFIERS

Mishicot	Dawn Shimek
Laconia ( <i>Runner-Up</i> )	Scott Ritzema
Brodhead	Steve Krupke
Prescott	Nick Johnson

**Division 3**

Fall Creek	Brad Ceranski
Coleman	Jean LeVash
Cuba City ( <i>Runner-Up</i> )	Megan Rojemann
Auburndale	Mike Schulte

**Division 4**

Oakfield ( <i>Runner-Up</i> )	Rob Schaefer
Thorp	Kurt Rhyner
Pacelli	Ann Molski
Assumption	Charlie Nelson Rob Schill

**Division 5**