

Warrior families,

This letter serves several purposes.

1. Formally invite your daughter to be a Waco Warrior in the Fall of 2024.
2. Provide my coaching perspective as we enter the summer and the next season.
3. Provide general plans for the summer and our upcoming Fall season.
4. Request feedback for your intent for Fall 2024.
5. Determine your child's availability for an 8U Kid's Pitch tournament over the summer.

Before I go any further, let me express how much I've enjoyed coaching all of our daughters for the last year. I will be taking over our team as we transition to 10U – so please let this serve as my official invitation for your daughter remain a Waco Warrior as we transition into the Fall 2024 season.

I want to provide a little information about my perspective on this team and where I would like to lead us.

- **Warriors Sports Philosophy:** I fully support the Waco Warriors Sports Foundation's philosophy on youth sports. Our team is dedicated to developing our athletes' skills and character through softball. Although we aim to win, it is not our only goal.
- **Balanced Competition Schedule:** We will participate in 5 tournaments during the Fall. This approach allows our daughters to engage in additional enriching activities, including Little League Softball, dance, gymnastics, church groups, and other activities which I believe will foster enthusiasm towards softball and balance in life.
- **Transitioning to 10U:** I've heard from many that have gone before us that this transition into 10U (with kids pitching, base stealing, and otherwise live softball) is the most difficult transition. It will take a while to develop pitching, catching, and other necessary skills to compete at a high level in this age division. We will focus on these skills in our future practices. Speaking of practices....
- **Practice Schedule:**
 - **Summer:** I will look to hold weekly practices to prepare for the challenges of 10U softball. I will also offer occasional optional conditioning practices.
 - **Fall:** I will schedule practices for non-tournament weekends, with additional optional conditioning/skills practices available.
- **Attendance Expectations:** Consistent attendance at weekly practices is important. However, we recognize the importance of family vacations and other significant life events. I encourage families to balance these commitments as needed.
- **Tournament Outlook:** I will look for tournaments that are semi-local that match our skill level. These include 3M, Small Town Tournaments, NCS, and USA Softball.
- **Team Composition:** Assuming our team remains as is, we will move forward with 9 players. Given that there are 9 positions on the field (we play with only 3 outfielders in 10U), I prefer to remain at 9 players to maximize playing time for all girls. Having only 9 players carries inherent risks given that there are many reasons why one of our girls might not be available on a given

weekend/game, so I will look to add 1 more player – but only if she and her family are the right fit and it fulfills a need for the team.

I recognize that families may have different expectations for their travel softball experience. If you are considering a different path for the Fall, I completely understand and respect and support your decision.

To facilitate planning, please declare your intent for the Fall 2024 season by using the Google Form link here: <https://forms.gle/5gVXyt3L2QUzyRu17>. The form includes the following options:

- **Count me in for the Fall of 2024.**
- **It's been great, but we will pursue other options in the Fall of 2024.**
- **I am not ready to decide now but will inform you by no later than June 30, 2024.**

Regardless of your decision to return for the Fall of 2024, I'd like to invite the team to participate in one final tournament for the season – Either 25-26 May in Axtel or 29-30 June in Temple. These tournaments are 8U kids pitch tournaments and it should help our team transition into the nuances of the next level of softball. We'll work several pitchers, catchers, and our batters will get to face live pitching as well as experience the nuances of running the bases with a live catcher. It will be very similar to what most of our girls are experiencing now in Little League.

A second question on this form will ask about your availability for these tournaments and here are the following options:

- **My daughter is available for the 24-25 May Kids Pitch Tournament in Axtell.**
- **My daughter is available for the 29-30 June Kids Pitch Tournament in Temple.**
- **My daughter is available for both tournaments.**
- **We will not be available for either of these dates.**

One final note. As we transition into the Spring of 2024, we will need to develop pitching. If your daughter is interested in pitching, please work with her at home, get her involved in clinics, or find outside lessons. While we will practice pitching during our practices, this will take more development than the practice time we have leading up to the 2024 season.

Once more, I completely understand if your family is considering different options for the Fall. If you're unsure about committing by the June 30 deadline, please email me at dusty.s.turner@gmail.com. Knowing your plans as early as possible will help me plan as I build out the team for the Fall season.

Thanks for all your support and go Warriors!!

For convenience, I've included the link again here: <https://forms.gle/5gVXyt3L2QUzyRu17>

Go Warriors!

Dusty