

A's



MINNESOTA

# Minnesota Vortex / Minnesota A's KICK-OFF MEETING

August 19, 2024



# AGENDA

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- Program Overview (Mike Carter – Club Director & President)
- DEI, Tournaments (Mike Carter– Club Director & President)
- Financials & Fundraising (Rich Gross – Treasurer)
- Winter Training (Becky Sande – VP/Player Development)
- Web & Communications (Becky Sande – VP/Player Development)
- College Preparation/Recruiting (Becky Sande – VP/Player Development)
- Uniforms & Apparel (Reuben Singer – Uniforms Coordinator)

# Vision & Mission

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## VISION

- Most admired girls fastpitch club in the upper Midwest

## MISSION

- We provide an uncompromising commitment to developing players on and off the field and knowing that the quality of our coaches and the satisfaction of our teams and families is paramount

97.9% Returning-Player Acceptance Rate (when offered)  
33% New-Player Additions to Club in 2024  
63.9% Net Promoter Score (2024 Survey)

# MN Vortex & MN A's Best Qualities



- Non-Profit Organization
- Working Board – 9 Members
- Fundraising (Club Level and Individual Level)
- Financial Assistance/Scholarships
- Spring Training for 12Us & 14Us not in HS
- Winter Training
  - Many Days, Times, Skills, All Ages, Attend as much as you like-No extra cost
- Dome Ball Leagues
- Performance Training & Fitness Partnerships
- Health & Nutrition Night
- Mental Training Night
- Multi Sport Athletes Supported
- College Softball Recruitment Night
- Player Development Plans
- Blast Motion Hitting Sensors
- Diamond Kinetics Pitching Tracker
- Video Analysis
- Coach Development/Mentoring Program
- Coach Training & Conferences
- Volunteer & Charity Events
- Diversity & Inclusion Program
- 22+ Year-Round Coaches
- 16+ College Summer Assistant Coaches
- 10+ Trainers on Staff
- Current and Former HS Coaches
- College Coach on Staff

The Minnesota Vortex Softball Club through it's MN Vortex & MN A's teams have produced nationally ranked teams year after year. The program has won over a dozen National Championships and graduated 150+ collegiate players.

The 2024 season did not disappoint as the program added a 16U WFC National Championship and 16 more college commits thus far.



- Development Teams
- 12U & 14U Level Teams

- 16U & 18U Level Teams

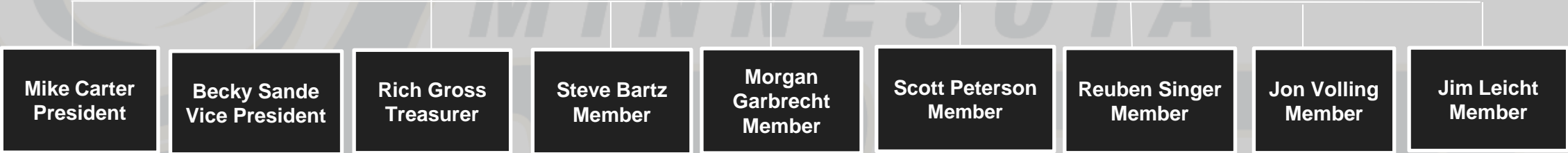
- College Prep Development



# Vortex/A's Volunteer Organization



## Board of Directors



## Organization Level Leads / Volunteers



**HONOR ROLL**  
Jack Thibault

Big Thanks to  
recently retired  
Board Member  
Amy Kimbler

# Coaches & Team Managers



Vortex 11U/12U  
HC: Amanda Schlecht  
AC: Anna Lang  
TM: TBD

Vortex 12U Gold/Nat'l  
HC: Scott Peterson  
AC: Mark Heinsch  
TM: Jenni Drake

Vortex 13U Gold  
HC: Lauren Kirchberg  
AC: Mike Kopischke  
TM: TBD

Vortex 13U Nat'l  
HC: Becky Sande  
AC: Brinna Kopischke  
TM: Erika Kreye

Vortex 14U Gold  
HC: Maggie O'Brien  
AC: Kayla Peterson  
TM: Cally Scholtec

Vortex 14U Nat'l  
HC: Morgan Garbrecht  
AC: Steve Bartz  
TM: Erika Kastamo

A's 15U  
HC: Emily VanPatter  
AC: Andrew Rogers  
TM: LaRae Olsson

A's 16U Gold  
HC: Karlie Jones  
HC: Katie Uittenbogaard  
TM: Kathy Laabs

A's 16U Nat'l  
HC: Jason Rudquist  
AC: Rich Gross  
TM: Kim Windorski

A's 18U Nt'l Carter  
HC: Mike Carter  
AC: Mitch Zwack  
AC: Steve Bartz  
AC: Katie Kemmetmueller  
AC: Brian Balabon  
TM: Reuben Singer

A's 18U Nt'l Florek  
HC: Jason Florek  
AC: Mitch Zwack  
AC: Steve Bartz  
AC: Katie Kemmetmueller  
AC: Brian Balabon  
TM: Deb Balabon

## College Summer Assistants

Karen Balabon Larissa Snyder Madi Urfer Anika Rogers  
Skylar Bartz Molly Gross Izzy Guttenfelder Whitley Wischmeier  
Ella Luoto Hannah Hollowaty Tyana Kleis Jordyn Clapp  
Ava Blake Sienna Bemmels Jackie Larson Rory Harris

\* Additional coaching resources  
will be assigned as needed

# Program Overview – Mike Carter

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- Vortex & A's Philosophy
  - Respect: for ALL aspects of the game!
  - Giving Back: community partners, volunteers, scholarships, teaching
  - HIGH Expectations & Accountability - We are all accountable!
- Coach / Player Policies, Player Code of Conduct, Parent Code of Conduct, Coaches Code of Conduct
- Background Checks – Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Board Members



# Expectations, Experience, Success & Failure

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## Expectations

Find out what you can expect and what you can't. Dream! But be real about your expectations.

Disappointment lies between the gap in our skills and our expectations. We WILL raise your skills. So we all can expect more!

## Experience

You could have a great experience! But your experience will also be what you make it!

## Success

Doesn't come overnight

My personal observation is that people, players and teams that find a way to be consistent are successful.

## Failure

Stop expecting impossible perfection!

In this sport - It's not about perfect. It's about effort. And when you bring continuous effort, you get better.

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

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**Our Vision:** Most admired girls fastpitch club in the upper Midwest

**Our Desire:** We want you to be able to BE YOURSELF regardless of race, sexual identity or preference, skin color, physical/mental disabilities, religion...

**Vortex/A's Board & Staff Commitment:**

- Act as allies for everyone – Will take action to address undesirable situations/incidents
- Provide D&I educational opportunities during the year

**Our Ask of You:**

- Ally for each other. If you hear/see discrimination, speak up

# Tournaments

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- Head Coaches and Mike Carter plan a tournament schedule which aligns with the team's goals and objectives and the correct level of competition.
- Tournament Classifications
  - [USSSA](#) Fastpitch / USAElite Select - All teams are registered and have team insurance
    - Waiver signatures will be required (electronically)
  - [Premier Girls Fastpitch \(PGF\)](#)
  - [North American Fastpitch Association \(NAFA\)](#)
  - HFL Heartland Fastpitch League – Alliance
  - Triple Crown
  - Decisions for additional registration with PGF/ HFL/ NAFA and/or PGF are made by Head Coach & Mike Carter

# Own Facilities



MINNESOTA

## Loretto Athletic Complex



## TCOS Training Center



# Financials

- 501c3 Non-Profit Organization
- Dependent on Volunteers
- Solid financial position
- Team based budgeting
- Fundraising Opportunities (Organization Wide & Team Based)

Exepnse Category	2023 - 2024 Actuals \$	2023 - 2024 Actuals %
<b>Salaries:</b> Head Coaches, Asst. Coaches, Program Director, Player Dev. Dir.	\$ 186,234	34.9%
Training Facilities	\$ 98,108	18.4%
Tournament Registrations, League Sanctioning & Gate Fees	\$ 79,682	14.9%
Out of Town Coach Travel/Lodging/Per Diem	\$ 71,113	13.3%
Winter Dome Ball	\$ 23,081	4.3%
Credit Card Processing Fees	\$ 21,950	4.1%
Fall & Summer Field Rentals/Umpire Costs	\$ 19,724	3.7%
Equipment - All Teams	\$ 19,485	3.7%
College Recruiting Service Subscription & Meetings	\$ 7,400	1.4%
Software Services - Website, Acctg, Registration	\$ 3,434	0.6%
Insurance & Bkgd Checks	\$ 3,116	0.6%
	<b><u>\$ 533,327</u></b>	<b>100%</b>



# Fundraising



- Lexi Kretsch Summer Showdown Tournament
  - Hosted by MN Vortex/A's
  - Volunteers Needed: Committees, ALL Hands-on
- Gerten's Fall Mums
- Heggie's Pizza Sales

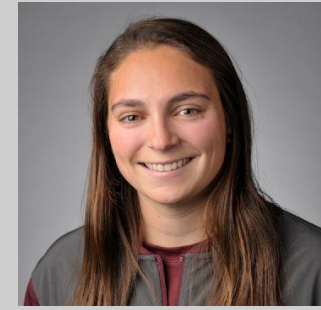
**Consider Additional Team Fundraising options if more expensive tournaments & extra coach travel expenses:**

- USSSA Tournament Concessions &/or Field Maintenance
- Poinsettia Sales
- Many others – new families may have ideas from previous organizations.

*NOTE: Team Manager must check with Board on any additional team fundraising decisions*



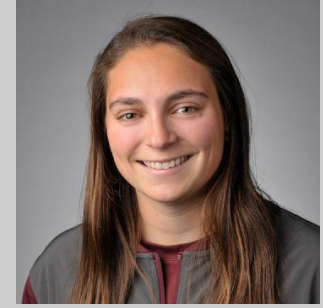
# Winter Training



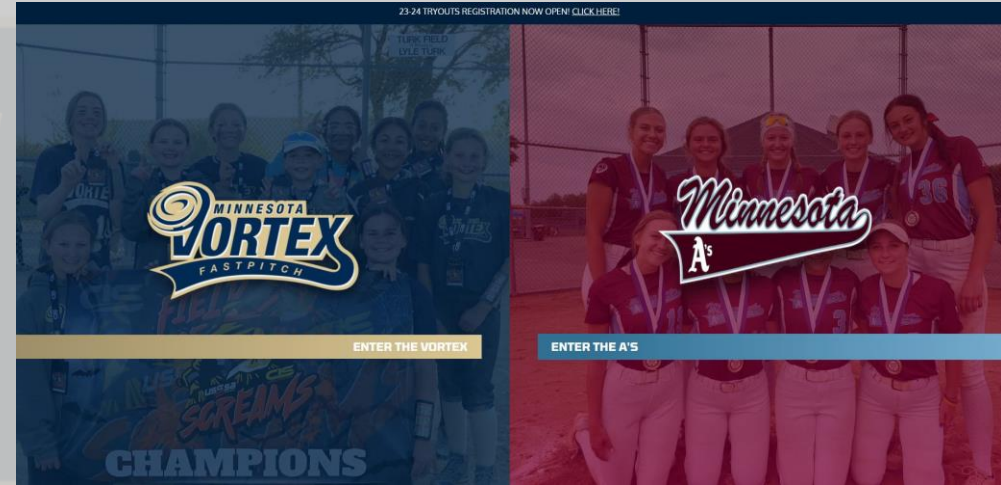
- Focus on Mechanics
- The Little Things
- Individual player development plans, video analysis
- Position specific, team and individual training
  - Hitting, Pitching, Catching, Infield, Outfield, Arm Care & Throwing, and Strength and Performance Training
- Sign up for days/times that fit your schedule
- TCOS Training Center (Plymouth), Wayzata CMS Dome, P3 Performance Dome in Long Lake
- Multiple Trainers and Coaches for small player to coach ratios

Monday		Monday		
TCOS Training Center	TCOS Training Center	TCOS Training Center		
14410 21st Ave N, Plymouth, MN	14410 21st Ave N, Plymouth, MN	14410 21st Ave N, Plymouth, MN		
Performance Training	Hitting	Pitching *12U & 14U*	PLAYERS Bullpen Catching	
No sign ups required Performance Training 5:00 - 6:00pm	6:00 PM	6:00 PM		
	6:00 PM	6:00 PM		
	6:00 PM	6:00 PM		
	6:00 PM	6:00 PM		
	6:00 PM	6:00 PM		
	6:00 PM	6:00 PM		
	6:00 PM	6:00 PM		
	6:45 PM	6:00 PM		
	6:45 PM		All Ages Pitching	PLAYERS Bullpen Catching
	6:45 PM			
	7:30 PM	6:45 PM		
	7:30 PM	6:45 PM		
	7:30 PM	6:45 PM		
	7:30 PM	6:45 PM		
	7:30 PM	6:45 PM		
			Pitching *16U & 18U*	
			PLAYERS Bullpen Catching	
	8:15 PM	7:30 PM		
	8:15 PM	7:30 PM		
	8:15 PM	7:30 PM		
	8:15 PM	7:30 PM		

# Web and Communications



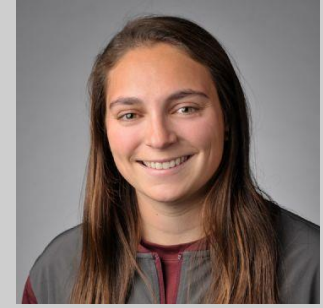
- Website: [www.minnesotavortex.org](http://www.minnesotavortex.org)
- Social Media
  - Facebook: Minnesota Vortex/A's Fastpitch Organization
  - Instagram: [mnvortexandas](#)
  - Twitter: [mnvortexandas](#)
  - Tik Tok: [mn\\_vortex.mn\\_as](#)
  - Lexi Showdown: [@Lexi\\_Showdown](#)
  - Team pictures, HS pictures, Homeruns, Perfect Games/No hitters, Seniors, Lexi Award winners, Action shots






# Web and Communications

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- LeagueApps Dashboard (Your Player, Team, Registration, Schedule, Pay, Account)
  - Our website, LeagueApps Login top right
  - Add Family Member through “My Family Account”
- LeagueApps Play App 
  - Schedule, Chat, etc.
  - Sign in same as registration account
  - Players must sign in using parent/guardian account
  - Androids – recent updates & improvements
    - Have most up to date version of app (Version 3.6.1). May need to log out then back in after update.

# College Recruiting & Preparation



- Play in College Showcase Tournaments: especially 16U and 18U teams
  - Contact coaches attending the tournament with your schedule
- SportsRecruits software for 14/16/18U (specific uses for age groups)
  - <https://sportsrecruits.com/>
  - Create player videos
- College Recruitment Info Session – every Winter
  - 2023 PowerPoint in A's > Recruitment > College Recruitment Night Meeting
- Leverage Minn. Vortex/A's Leadership connections to college coaches
- Continually updated spreadsheet for MN College Softball camps:  
minnesotavortex.org > A's > Recruitment > College Camps to Attend

**sports**Recruits

# Uniforms

- Order and pay individually via Uniform website that was sent today

## New Player Bundle Starting at \$311.64



Alleson Fastpitch Navy Crew Neck Jersey

+



Alleson Fastpitch White Crew Neck Jersey

+



Alleson Fastpitch Silver Crew Neck Jersey



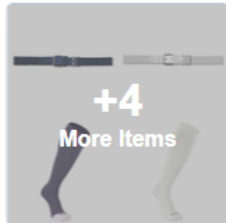
Boombah Women's Hypertech Series Fastpitch Solid Pant

+



Boombah Women's Hypertech Series Fastpitch Solid Pant

+



[Build Bundle](#)

## New Player Helmet and Bag Non-Catcher Starting at \$193.00



EVOSHIELD XVT Softball Helmet Matte White

+



Superpack Bat Bag for Bundle

[Build Bundle](#)

# Player & Fan Apparel

- Minnesota Vortex and A's Fan Apparel
  - Store Coming Soon



Port Authority Collective Insulated Vest  
Vortex Logo

\$35.00



Under Armour Mens Tech LS 1/4 Zip Vortex  
Logo

\$48.00



Nike Club Fleece Crew Vortex Logo

\$60.00



Nike Club Fleece Pullover Hoodie Vortex  
Logo

\$65.00



Holloway Bionic Windshirt A's Logo



Holloway Prism Bold Polo A's Logo



Nike Tech Sport Dri-Fit Polo A's Logo



Nike Legend Tee A's Logo