



## 2017 BIRMINGHAM GIRLS SOFTBALL INFORMATION SHEET

### *WELCOME TO THE 2017 SEASON!*

**Birmingham Girls Softball** is a community-based, non-profit organization providing girls ages 6 to 14 the opportunity to play organized recreational softball. We are dedicated to teaching young ladies the fundamentals of softball in a safe and fun environment with teamwork and good sportsmanship being our top priorities. BGS is open to all girls interested in playing softball for the first time and those with prior experience looking to build on and develop the skills needed to play the game for years to come. All that we require is a positive attitude and a willingness to learn.

**Why softball?** Softball develops hand-eye coordination, sharpens mental focus and provides total body conditioning. Softball helps improve self-esteem, teaches the skills necessary for handling success and failure and develops leadership traits. Softball players learn teamwork, good sportsmanship and form lifelong friendships. Most importantly, softball creates memories to be cherished forever.

**Divisions** are based on grade with our Minor Division consisting of players in first through third grade, our Major Division consisting of players in fourth and fifth grade and our Senior Division consisting of players in sixth through eighth grade. Depending on our registration numbers, the grade level for each division may be changed and/or a fourth division may be added. When experience and skill warrant, players are permitted to play down a division or play up (after an evaluation).

- **Minor Division** team selection is done by school and, when possible, by specific requests to play with friends.
- **Major Division** team selection is also done by school, however, when one school has enough players for two teams, players will be evenly divided based on experience and skill, to the best of our ability.
- **Senior Division** players are drafted and, as such, requests to play with friends will not be honored. Familial accommodations will be made, however. All Senior Division players are required to attend one of our Player Evaluations, scheduled to be held on Saturday, March 11, 2017, and Saturday, March 18, 2017. Additional information on our Player Evaluations will be provided at a later time.



**Registration** for the 2017 season opens on December 15, 2016. Registration is done online at [www.birminghamsoftball.com](http://www.birminghamsoftball.com) by clicking on the button at the top of the page labeled "Registration". Registration fees are \$150 for our Minor Division and \$170 for our Major and Senior Divisions. Early registration closes on February 28, 2017, at which time, a late fee will be assessed. Payment may be made online at the time of registration or, if you prefer, by mailing a check to our Treasurer made payable to Birmingham Girls Softball. In case of financial hardship, please contact our League President.

**Please note:** *Refunds will only be given in the event of a player injury or a player moves out of the area.*

**Uniforms**, including a game jersey, practice t-shirt and socks, will be provided to all players. We recommend girls wear black softball pants and players in the Major and Senior Divisions consider purchasing sliding shorts. Players will need to wear non-metal cleats. We strongly encourage all girls wear fielding masks or mouth guards. Rules regarding fielding masks based on divisions and positions will be provided prior to the start of practices. BGS no longer provides batting helmets so players are required to provide their own, properly fitting helmet with front cage. All items mentioned above can be purchased at the Varsity Shop in Birmingham.

**Game and Practice Schedules** will not be made until the spring. However, our Senior Division teams primarily play and practice on Mondays, Wednesdays and some Fridays. Our Major Division teams primarily play and practice on Tuesdays, Thursdays and some Saturdays. Our Minor Division teams will alternate days of the week (Monday through Saturday) based on team availability. Players can anticipate having two practices per week prior to the start of the season and no more than one practice per week once the season kicks off. Two games per week is the norm unless rain forces a make-up game to be scheduled. All games and practices will be held on fields in the Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Franklin vicinities. Weather permitting, our season kicks off on Monday, April 11, 2017, and concludes with our championship games on Saturday, June 10, 2017.

Our **Player's Softball Clinics** are scheduled for Saturday, March 25, 2017, and Saturday, April 11, 2017. Please watch for future e-mails with additional information.



**Coaches** needed! BGS looks forward to providing another year of instruction on the fundamentals of the game. We are always looking for coaches who are dedicated to helping our girls develop and improve their skills. This year, our coaches will be encouraged to place additional emphasis on hitting and pitching. To help prepare our coaches for the new season, we are planning a **Coach's Clinic** prior to the start of the season. If you are interested in coaching, be sure to check the "willing to help" box during online registration.

**Sponsorship** opportunities are available! BGS is fortunate that many of our local businesses assist our league by defraying some of our operating expenses. As the cost of operating the league continues to grow, additional sponsorship opportunities will be offered this year. If your business is interested in sponsoring our program, please contact our League President.

**Umpires** are one of the keys to our success and we pride ourselves on having some of the best around. If you are 14 years or older and are interested in umpiring, please contact Maddy Cormier at (248) 914-5343. This year, all umpires will be required to attend two instructional clinics at a date and time to be determined. More information to follow.

**Jags Fastpitch**, the official travel team of Birmingham Girls Softball, has expanded to 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U and 16U teams. Travel softball, compared to recreational softball, requires individual competitive tryouts, selects participants primarily on their playing ability, bases a player's playing time on skill, production, attitude and experience, is generally considered a higher level of competition and can be costly. Tryouts for the Jags Fastpitch teams are usually held in August. If you are interested in a mid-season tryout, please contact Jeff Weber at [jweb666@me.com](mailto:jweb666@me.com). For more information, please visit [www.jagsfastpitch.com](http://www.jagsfastpitch.com).

**Parents**, for your information, Birmingham Girls Softball, Inc. carries secondary insurance which may provide indemnity and medical expense benefits for injuries to a registered participant in Birmingham Girls Softball activities (including travel to or from a game or practice) beyond your personal coverage. More detailed information is available from the league Treasurer. Written notice of a claim must be given to the insurance company within 20 days from the date of loss. Claims should be made through the League President.



## **2017 DATES TO REMEMBER**

Thursday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Registration Opens
Tuesday, February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Early Registration Closes
Saturday, March 11 <sup>th</sup> , 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Player Evaluations - West Maple
Saturday, March 18 <sup>th</sup> , 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Player Evaluations - West Maple
Wednesday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Team Assignment Notification
Saturday, March 25 <sup>th</sup> , 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Player's Clinic – West Maple
Monday, April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Practices Start
Saturday, April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Player's Clinic – West Maple
Monday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Opening Day
Saturday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Playoff Start
Saturday, June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Championship Games