



## 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>  
 Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
 (Maple)  
 Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
 Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm  
 (Olcese)  
 Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm  
 Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm  
 Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm  
 Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
 Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>  
 Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm  
 Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
 Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
 Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>

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Registration Opens  
 Early Registration Closes (Late Fee Assessed)  
 Player Evaluation-**Senior Division** (West  
 Maple)  
 Player Clinic-**Major Division** (West Maple)  
 Draft-**Senior Division Coaches** (Weber  
 State)  
 Team Assignment Notification  
 Player's Clinic-**Minor Division** (West Maple)  
 Player's Clinic-**Senior Division** (West Maple)  
 Spring Recess  
 Coach's Meeting (Quarton)  
 Practices Start  
 Umpire's Clinic (West Maple)  
 Opening Day  
 Memorial Day  
 Make-Up Games  
 Playoffs  
 All-Star Games (TBD)  
 Championship Game-**Senior Division** (Seaholm)  
 Championship Game-**Major Division** (Seaholm)  
 Championship Game Rain Date



## E-MAIL SENT MARCH 5, 2017:

Welcome to the **Birmingham Girls Softball League!** Your BGS Board has been hard at work over the winter to ensure 2017 is our most successful year yet! To date, we have over 300 girls registered for the upcoming season, which kicks off this Saturday with our Senior Division Player Evaluation.

Below you will find important information on what you can expect this spring, as well as, a brief overview of some of the pertinent changes we have made to the league. We encourage you to read it in its entirety and reach out to our League President, Jeff Weber, with any questions, comments or concerns. Jeff can be contacted by email at [jweb666@me.com](mailto:jweb666@me.com) or by cell at (248) 321-0400.

### Divisions

*New this year*, we will have four divisions, broken down and highlighted as follows:

- **Beginner Minors** – 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (coach pitch, hitting tee in lieu of strikeouts, all players will bat each inning regardless of outs, score will not be kept and four outfielders and no catcher will be used;
- **Advanced Minors** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (coach pitch to start season, possibility for player/coach pitch by end of season, score will be kept, outs will be recorded and four outfielders will be used;
- **Majors** – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades (player/coach pitch to start, possibility for full player pitch by end of season, no stealing and four outfielders; and
- **Seniors** – 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades (player draft, player pitch, *new this year* - batter may try and advance on dropped third strike and, *new this year* - one successful steal of home per inning.

Any player requesting to play up (or down) a division, should email Jeff Weber at [jweb666@me.com](mailto:jweb666@me.com) before March 10<sup>th</sup>. Please state a brief explanation for your request and provide information regarding the player's experience and skill level.



### **Player Evaluations**

Our Senior Division Player Evaluation will be held in the gymnasium at West Maple Elementary School on **Saturday, March 11, 2017**, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This Evaluation is for players in the Senior Division only. Players in the Minor and Major Divisions do not attend a player evaluation as they are placed on teams by school and request.

All Senior Division players are required to attend the Player Evaluation. Any player unable to make the Evaluation on March 11<sup>th</sup>, may email Jeff Weber at [jweb666@me.com](mailto:jweb666@me.com) and make arrangements to be evaluated on March 18, 2017, between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM.

### **Player Clinics**

We will be holding two Player Clinics at West Maple Elementary School by division as follow:

- **Major Division - Saturday, March 18, 2017**, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM;
- **Minor Division** (both Beginner and Advanced) - **Saturday, March 25, 2017**, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM; and
- **Senior Division - Saturday, March 25, 2017**, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Our Player Clinics are put on by the Seaholm High School Girls Softball Team. A \$10 per player fee will be charged at the door, which will go directly to the Seaholm coaches and players running the Clinic.

### **Senior Division Draft**

We are in the process of selecting coaches for the Senior Division and anticipate notifying those chosen by **March 8, 2017**. We anticipate each Senior Division team will have three coaches.

The Senior Division Draft will take place at the Law Offices of Weber & Olcese, PLC, 3250 W Big Beaver Rd, Ste 124, Troy, on Tuesday, **March 21, 2017**, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. *New this Year*, we are hoping to identify our “elite” pitchers at the Player Evaluation and place one on each team. We think it’s pretty evident from past years that the biggest discrepancy between the good and bad teams is the level of pitching.

*New this year*, any player not registered with BGS prior to the draft will be placed on a team at the Board’s discretion and not necessarily by which team is next in the draft order.



### **Team Assignments**

We will notify our Minor and Major Division coaches of their assignments prior to March 18, 2017. Player assignments will be sent out via TeamSnap between Wednesday, March 22, 2017, and Friday, **March 24, 2017**.

### **Coach's Clinic**

Our Coach's Clinic will be held in the gymnasium at Quarton Elementary School on Monday, **April 10, 2017**, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. We will review the rules for each division and provide some instruction on teaching the fundamentals of the game. Equipment, such as balls and catcher's gear, will be available for pick-up following the Clinic.

### **Uniforms & Equipment**

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 to 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 & Practices**

Game and practice schedules will be provided by the end of March:

- **Senior Division** teams will play and practice on Mondays, Wednesdays and some Saturdays;
- **Major Division** teams will play and practice on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and some Saturdays; and
- **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. All weekday games will begin at 6:30 PM and conclude no later than 8:30 PM. Weekend games will be held between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

Practices will start the week of **April 10, 2017**. Games will start the week of **April 24, 2017**. Playoffs for the Advance Minor, Major and Senior Divisions will start Saturday, **June 3, 2017**, and conclude with our Championship Game on Saturday, **June 10, 2017**, at Seaholm High School.

### **All-Star Game**

*New this year*, we will be holding an All-Star Game for all divisions at a field to be determined on Friday, **June 9, 2017**. Popcorn, cotton candy and other concessions will be provided, free of charge, to all BGS participants.

We are looking forward to another great season of Birmingham Girls Softball!

BGS Board of Directors