



2018 BIRMINGHAM GIRLS SOFTBALL INFORMATION SHEET

WELCOME TO THE 2018 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 typically based on grade with our Minor Division consisting of players in first and second grade, our two Major Divisions consisting of players in third through fifth grade and our Senior Division consisting of players in sixth through eighth grade. Divisions are always subject to change based on our registration numbers. When experience and skill warrant, players are permitted to play down a division or play up (after an evaluation). Highlights of each division are as follows:

- **Minor Division** team selection is done by school and, when possible, by specific requests to play with friends. The Minor Division is coach pitch, a hitting tee is used in lieu of strikeouts, all players will bat each inning regardless of outs, score will not be kept, four outfielders and no catcher will be used and there is no umpire.
- **Major Division I** team selection is also done by school and, when possible, by specific requests to play with friends. The Major Division I is coach pitch to start the season with a possibility for player/coach pitch by the end of the season, score will be kept, outs will be recorded and four outfielders will be used. Umpires may be used if and when player/coach pitch is implemented.



- **Major Division II** team selection is yet to be determined and may consist of a draft. The Major Division II is player pitch, four outfielders will be used and umpires. We will discuss the possibility of allowing limited stealing during our winter meetings. Look for an update in January.
- **Senior Division** players are drafted and, as such, requests to play with friends will not be honored. Familial accommodations will be made, however. The Senior Division is player pitch. We will discuss advancing on a dropped third strike and stealing home at our winter meetings. Look for an update in January.

Registration for the 2018 season opens on December 15, 2017. Registration is done online at www.birminghamsoftball.com by clicking on the button at the top of the page labeled "Registration". Registration fees will be posted in December but typically run \$180 (you can expect the Minor Division registration fees to be slightly less). Early registration closes on February 28, 2018, 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 made payable to Birmingham Girls Softball to 889 Suffield Avenue, Birmingham, MI 48009. In case of financial hardship, please email our league President, Jeff Weber, at jweb666@me.com.

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 Saturdays. Our Major Division teams primarily play and practice on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. Our Minor Division teams primarily play and practice on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. 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 City of



Birmingham. Weather permitting, our season kicks off on Monday, April 9, 2018, and concludes with our championship games on Sunday, June 10, 2018.

Our **Player's Softball 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. 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 email our league President, Jeff Weber, at jweb666@me.com.

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 email Buffy Hurd at elizabuffy@yahoo.com. 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 email Jeff Weber at jweb666@me.com. For more information, please visit www.jagsfastpitch.com.



2018 Tentative Dates to Remember

Friday, December 15th
Wednesday, February 28th
Saturday, March 10th
Saturday, March 17th
Tuesday, March 20th
Friday, March 23rd
Saturday, March 24th
Tuesday, March 27th
Saturday, March 31st
Monday, April 9th
Saturday, April 15th, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Monday, April 23rd
Friday, June 8th
Sunday, June 10th

Registration Opens
Early Registration Closes (Late Fee Assessed)
Player Evaluation-**Senior Division**
Player Clinic-**Major Division**
Draft
Team Assignment Notification
Player's Clinic-**Minor Division**
Coach's Clinic/Meeting
Spring Recess
Practices Start
Umpire's Clinic
Opening Day
All-Star Extravaganza
Championship Games