

A History of Rock Island Girls Softball

Rock Island Girls Softball League was formed in 1971 by Mrs. Sam Armetta, who was interested in providing a summer-time softball program for girls. The program not only provides recreation and the opportunity for the girls to develop their individual and collective talents, but also strives to install fundamentally good habits and attitudes towards competition, sportsmanship, and teamwork. This ideology is still in place today.

Since the 1980's, steady growth has brought the league up to approximately 425 participants in the last season. The 9-13 division has 13 to 15 teams, and the 14-18 division has 13 teams. Each division season starts the first of May, with practices starting the first week of April. The divisions play through July with a one week double elimination tournament for each division taking place in the first two weeks of July. The top four teams in both divisions, for league play as well as tournament are presented trophies. Each Division also awards a Sportsmanship Award to a deserving team.

Rock Island Girls Softball is a self supporting, non-profit organization. It generates funds through one fund-raiser, sponsors fees, and participant registration fees of \$20.00 per participant. The league also does 50/50 drawings during tournament week and participates in the Golf Classic "Birdies for Charity" Program. The 50/50 drawings, the Birdies proceeds and donations designated for scholarship use are directed to the scholarship program. In cases of financial hardship, registration fees are waived. All youth, regardless of race or financial means are allowed to participate.

To become a participant in R.I.G.S.L. you must meet the following criteria: Live in the City of Rock Island or Milan; attend a District 41, Rock Island-Milan School; or attend any school located within the boundaries of the City of Rock Island. There are no player try-outs or player cuts. Every participant who attends practices regularly and abides by league rules will be given the opportunity to play a minimum of three innings in every league and tournament game regardless of their age or skill level. Every participant will receive from the league a uniform which will consist of the following; T-shirt, shorts, and socks, that at the conclusion of the season is theirs to keep. The league will supply the equipment, excluding gloves and shoes, necessary to play the sport of softball. The league hires umpires to insure participant safety and fairness.

R.I.G.S.L. is governed by an eleven member board that is elected annually. Board members and coaches are volunteers whose objective is to see that the program is conducted in the best interest and for the benefit of the youth. Games are played on school and park diamonds reserved through and with the cooperation of the Rock Island Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks Department has allocated the 31st Avenue site for exclusive use by Rock Island Girls Softball.

In 1990, R.I.G.S.L. Board established a scholarship fund for the 18 year olds upon graduating high school who have chosen to continue education. This fund has since been named the Maurice Quist scholarship fund in honor of a long time member and supporter of the league. Since its inception this fund has granted over \$75,000 in scholarships to the leagues participants.

Rock Island Girls Softball League has provided a quality program for the female youth of Rock Island for 34 years through the hard work and dedication of its volunteers, sponsors, and enthusiastic parents.

The R.I. Girls Softball Board welcomes you to the League!
Contact a Board Member about Volunteering Today!