



2015 SSA 5th Year Anniversary Season

The SSA is proud to unveil its 5th Year Anniversary Season Schedule. It is hard to believe that the SSA has been in existence for 5 years! While we here at the SSA have worked very hard during the past 4 years to carry out our core mission of growing 16" softball, making the game more player, family, and fan friendly, and making the game more affordable, we know that without all of your support this would not have been possible. So, to all of our supporters, Thank You for your participation and patience these last 4 years. We could not have done any of this without you!

This year the SSA is going to do things which have never been done in 16" softball. Our program this year is designed to take 16" softball to the next level. We feel our program will help every aspect of the game as it will link the biggest tournaments, the Hall of Fame and SSA in a program that will drive the game forward. Here are some things that we will be rolling out this year:

Live Score Keeping

This year the SSA will be rolling out live, real time score keeping! This means all events on the SSA Schedule will have real time score keeping in place which players, family members and fans will be able to track in real time. We will also be keep these stats as a historical record. The stats from the premier events will be used down the road by the Hall for Fame for induction consideration. This is the first time in history that players, family and friends will be able to track stats live!

2015 Chicago Summer Series

The SSA has also been able to secure the linking of the premier events in 16" softball under the banner of the 2015 Chicago Summer Series (CSS). These events are the six events which are open to both Major and Class "A" teams and which include some of the very best softball teams in the country. During the summer, the teams that participate in the CSS will earn points based upon where they finish in the premier events and ranked by points. The stats will be tallied as well. At the end of the year, there will be a team that will be crowned the CSS Champions. There will also be a 1st and 2nd All-CCS teams named, as well as a Batting, HR and RBI Champ and a MVP! This will mark the first time this has been attempted in softball history! The events that make up the CSS and a brief description of each follows:

- The Tournament of Champions, Westchester Park District (May 14-17). This event is usually the first event of the summer and will be the Kick-Off event of The Chicago 16" Softball Summer Series. This event sets the tone for the summer as the teams all are looking to get off to good starts. The atmosphere is fun as the facility



in Westchester has two diamonds and is tucked into a residential neighborhood. It is also the first chance for everyone to see how teams have improved and who picked up new players.

- North-South Challenge, Danny Atkins, Organizer (June 11-14). This event is the only one which is run by an individual and not a park district or association. Mr. Atkins started this event over 13 years ago for the purpose of settling an age old softball question. Who is better at 16" softball, the North side or the South side! The tournament is unique in that all first round games match up a North side team with a South side team. As the tourney progresses, the wins and losses are added up. This event is also held in a facility placed in a residential neighborhood. This tourney usually has a good mix of Major, Class "A" and younger teams.
- Chicago Championships, Mt. Prospect (June 25-28). This event hosts a large number of teams and contains a greater percentage of younger teams due to the fact that they have 3 diamonds. Many teams who participate in this event do so as their first exposure to structured softball and it provides a good starting point for them.
- No Glove Nationals, Park District of Forest Park (July 23-26). This is the "Grand Daddy" of premier events. This event has been run for over 45 years. The No Glove Nationals is 16" softball's version of homecoming. The facility in Forest Park is Wrigley Field and the Field of Dreams rolled into one. This is also a facility tucked into a residential area and the local community comes out in force to support it. It is common to see many of the greatest players out at this event catching up with former teammates and opponents, talking softball over a cold beverage. The facility has two diamonds and they only accept 24 teams, by invitation only. The teams are invited based on their performance during the other premier events and league performance. As a result, the best of the best compete every year. This is the most prestigious No Glove tournament in 16" softball. Forest Park is also the home of the 16" Softball Hall of Fame!
- Flip-A-Coin, SSA, Westchester (August 14-16). This is an open tournament with a twist. The team that wins the coin toss can select from one of two options. It can elect to have the game played with or without gloves or it can choose to home or away. The team that loses the coin toss can then select from remaining option. In other words, if my team elects to be home, your team could choose to play with or without gloves. This concept was created to encourage the younger teams to play against the Major teams by giving them possibility of playing with or without gloves.
- SSA Men's 16" Major National Championship, SSA (September 3-7). This



tournament is the culmination of the summer. It is played over Labor weekend and the teams have to earn their way into the event based on their performance during the summer. This is the best glove tournament in softball. The SSA awards bids based on the performance from the premier leagues and premier events. The SSA also awards at large bids to teams that petition for entry into the event. In the past, teams were often times forced to play in the Major event to help the “bottom line” out. The SSA does not force or require teams to play in any of their events. This event draws the most teams from other geographic areas as well. In the 4 years that the SSA has been in existence teams from California, Iowa, and Pennsylvania have participated.

2015 Future Stars Summer Series

The SSA will also be launching the 2015 Future Stars Summer Series (FSSS). This is designed to highlight the younger, less experienced players who are the going to be the future stars of 16" softball. The FSSS will have a similar format as the CSS with live score keeping, stat compilation, rankings and awards. The FSSS will focus on the restricted Class “A” events that are run by the SSA through the summer, including the SSA Men’s 16" Class “A” Nationals! These restricted Class “A” events are only open to Class “A” or lower teams. The competition in these events tends to be fierce. These younger guys are hungry! The FSSS will feature the following events:

- SSA Restricted Class “A” Tournament, Mt. Greenwood, May 30.
- SSA Restricted Class “A” Tournament, Wentworth Park, June 6.
- SSA Restricted Class “A” Tournament, Melrose Park, June 20 .
- SSA Men’s 16" Men’s Class “A” Major, McCaslin Park, Carol Stream, IL. This is the ultimate tournament for Class “A” and younger teams. Teams qualify by playing in a bona fide 16" league and turning in their roster by the deadline, which will be disclosed soon. This tournament has grown in popularity each of the 4 years the SSA has run it with 41 teams participating in 2014. The competition has been so close that it is not unusual to see 1 run games and extra inning games throughout.

2nd Annual SSA Golf Outing

The SSA will hosting their 2nd Annual Golf Outing on Saturday, August 8, 2015 at the Links at Carillon in Bolingbrook, IL. The golf outing will be a shotgun start beginning at Noon and will include golf, cart, dinner and open bar for \$125.00. Last year’s debut of this event was a great time. For more information or to sponsor a hole, please contact Pat Caputo at (630) 220-0002.



2015 SSA 14" Mush Ball Co-Ed Nationals

This event has been growing and has been fun to watch. The women wear gloves and the men do not. It makes for an interesting and fun softball weekend!

SSA Columbus Day Weekend Get-A-Way Tournament

This is a fun event that the SSA is running for the first time. The event will be held in Las Vegas, NV and will open roster. Grab your wife or girlfriend and earn some good will by heading to Las Vegas for some softball, sun, and fun! This is an open roster event, so start putting your team together and come enjoy softball in a fun and relaxing environment. Please contact Ron Matriciano at 815-954-9923 for more information.

2015 SSA Chronological Event Schedule

Date	Event	Location	Contact
April 4	Day at the Races	Hawthorne Racetrack	Completed
May 2	SSA Kick-Off Tournament	TBA	Anthony Tyler 708-426-3664
May 2-3	Claude Rhodes Memorial	Chicago, IL	Tony Ward 708-368-3521
May 14-17	Tournament of Champions (CSS)	Westchester, IL	Jim Kavanaugh 708-715-1510
May 30	SSA Restricted Class "A" (FSSS)	Mt. Greenwood, Chicago, IL	Anthony Tyler 708-426-3664
June 6	SSA Restricted Class "A" (FSSS)	Wentworth Park, Chicago, IL	Anthony Tyler 708-426-3664
June 11-14	North-South Challenge (CSS)	Berwyn, IL	Dan Atkins 630-774-6118
June 20	SSA Restricted Class "A" (FSSS)	Melrose Park, IL	Anthony Tyler 708-426-3664

Slow-Pitch Softball Association



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June 25-28	Chicago Championships (CSS)	Mt. Prospect	Joe Patterson 847-640-1000
July 23-26	No Glove Nationals (CSS)	Forest Park	708-366-7500
July 31- Aug 2	Melrose Open	Melrose Park, IL	Anthony Tyler 708-426-3664
August 8	SSA 2 nd Annual Golf Outing	Bolingbrook, IL	Toncie Siriscevich 773-307-6390
August 14-16	SSA Flip-A-Coin (CSS)	Westchester, IL	Anthony Tyler 708-426-3664
August 20-23	SSA Men's 16" Class "A" Nationals (FSSS)	Carol Stream, IL	Anthony Tyler 708-426-3664
September 3-7	SSA Men's 16" Men's Nationals (CSS)	Elgin, IL	Anthony Tyler 708-426-3664
September 19-20	SSA 14" Mush Ball Co-Ed Nationals	Melrose Park, IL	Anthony Tyler 708-426-3446
October 19-20	SSA Columbus Day Weekend Get- A-Way Tournament (Open Roster)	Las Vegas, NV	Ron Matrisciano 815-954-9923
TBA	SSA CSS and FSSS Awards Party	TBA	TBA

Key:

CCS= SSA Chicago Summer Series Event

FSSS= SSA Future Stars Summer Series Event

SSA Contact Information

For more information please contact us as follows:

- Email: info@ssasoftball.com
- Facebook: Search Slow-Pitch Softball Association
- Twitter: @SSASoftball