

# NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



## Batter up: World Series Tournaments Begin Friday *Women's and 12 U Class A & B Top Teams to Compete in Rockford Region*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 24, 2014

**Rockford, IL** – The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is pleased to partner with the Rockford Park District to welcome to town the prestigious United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) 2014 Women's World Series and the Girls 12U Class A and Class B World Series. The tournaments take place this week, beginning Friday, July 25 until Saturday, August 2.

The anticipated 1,100 thousand players, coaches and fans in town for the tournaments are expected to spend more than \$720,000 at area businesses during the week. Teams from throughout the Midwest, including Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Iowa, Kansas City, St. Louis, Wisconsin, and Illinois will compete. The following local teams will also compete in the tournament: Bison Outlaws (Loves Park), Stateline Fury (Roscoe) and the Big Dogs Xtreme (Machesney Park).

The tournaments will use a 5-game guarantee format. Teams will then be seeded into pools based on current USSSA rankings. There are 16 Women's teams (approximately 240 players) competing in the Women's tournament from July 25 – 27. In the Girls 12U Classes A & B tournament, 43 teams (approximately 645 players) will compete from July 28 – August 2.

**Opening Ceremonies for the 12U tournaments will take place Monday, July 28 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Sportscore Two's Indoor Sports Center, 8800 E. Riverside Blvd., Loves Park, IL.**

Games for all events will be played at Sportscore One, 100 Elmwood Rd., Rockford, IL and Harlem Sports Complex, 9400 Forest Hills Rd, Loves Park, IL.

RACVB worked with Brenda Paulson, Illinois USSSA Fast Pitch Director to bid on and secure the tournaments for the region. "Based on our track record with the RACVB, the Rockford Park District and the local hotels, we were able to bring the USSSA Girls and Women's Fast Pitch World Series softball events back to the Rockford Region," stated Paulson. "We added the "Class A" girls division to our roster this year and that's a testament to the exceptional facilities and hospitality the Region provides us year after year. We are looking forward to another great tournament."

"The USSSA tournaments are a primary example of why we focus to retain, regain and grow the sports tourism industry in the Rockford Region. Our current sports facilities are equipped to accommodate a variety of tournaments," said John Groh, president/CEO of the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. "The long-term relationships we've built with tournament directors and right's holders and our region's commitment to reinvesting and expanding in these facilities continue to drive the local economy and benefit the entire region."

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Tickets for spectators are \$10 per adult per day or \$25 per adult for a tournament pass for the Women's tournament, and \$10 per adult per day or \$40 per adult for a tournament pass for the weeklong 12U tournament. For children ages 6-12 passes are \$5 per day or \$10 for a tournament pass. Children 5 and under are free. **For a complete tournament schedule, visit [www.ussa.com](http://www.ussa.com).**

#### **About the USSSA**

The USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association) is a non-profit sports governing body that currently sanctions, creates, and promotes a variety of sports including softball, baseball, and basketball across the US, Puerto Rico, various US Military bases, and Canada with a membership of over 3.7 million.

*The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is a private, non-profit organization that champions efforts to promote and further develop the Rockford Region as an overnight visitor destination. RACVB generates positive economic impact for the community through investments in tourism marketing, sales, promotion and advocacy.*  
[www.gorockford.com](http://www.gorockford.com)

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