

MASSACHUSETTS LEGION SOFTBALL FAQ'S

Does our team need to be sponsored by an American Legion Post?

You can be sponsored by an American Legion Post, Auxiliary, SAL Organization, or the American Legion Riders. A Business or softball League may Co-Sponsor, as long as it's approved by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Fastpitch Committee. If you are a post or a softball team looking to be paired up let us know. We can assist in matching Teams with Local Legion Sponsorships.

Can I just Volunteer in some way?

Yes, Legion Fastpitch can always use your help. Volunteers can serve in a variety of ways, ranging from statisticians to serving Gatorade during games. You can also reach out to your local Legion team and volunteer directly with them.

What uniform requirements will there be?

The Massachusetts American Legion Softball Logo will be required to be on the jersey top. This logo needs to be on the left chest area or left sleeve. The patch may be sublimated in the jersey (with Massachusetts Legion Softball prior approval) in the required area. Contact malegionladyfastpitch@gmail.com for patches. Teams must be in matching jersey tops and bottoms.

Who schedules games?

Teams will schedule their own local regular season games. Schedules and game Scores must be recorded and reported to Mass legion Softball. Regional & State Tournaments will be scheduled by Mass legion Softball.

What does the season schedule look like?

Regular Season (start after High School play is done, usually end of June) This inaugural year we are aiming for teams to play 10 games. Teams must field (9) nine players to start each game.

What will postseason play look like?

Playoffs will be overseen by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee. District Tournaments may require more travel for some than others, depending on the number of teams registered as well as the location of those registered teams. We are hoping to have enough teams to have Regional Tournament **July 24-28**. The champions will advance to the State Tournament **July 30-Aug**. Regional and State Tournament format will be a double elimination tournament.

How many classes/divisions will there be?

For 2024 all teams will compete at the Varsity level. As the program grows, we hope to offer the Jv. level.

What are the age requirements to be eligible for participation in the 2024 season?

Athletes must be in the 8th, 9th, 10th, or 12th grade as of the 2023-2024 academic year and under the age of 19 as of June 1. All athletes must also meet at least one of the criteria below:

- A full-time resident of Massachusetts
- A full-time student at a recognized Massachusetts Middle or High School

Are you required to be related to a Veteran to play?

No, it is open to any girl who falls within the age group bracket can participate.

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How is transportation coordinated?

Teams will coordinate transportation individually, whether it be parent/team transportation or bussing.

Who is in charge of getting umpires for games?

Home teams are responsible for booking Umpire through their local Umpire Association. Umpires cost would be an even split between home team and away team regardless of whose field it is being played on. (For regular season play).

Where do I find a Coach?

You must find your own coach. Check with your Schools, Recreational softball leagues, Churches, Parents, Friends, and Other Teams to find a Coach for your team. If you are a post and need assistance finding softball coach, please reach out. It is our goal to introduce the "Softball" community to the "American Legion" Family and hopefully pair some up to start their own teams.

Softball Fastpitch Insurance?

Each team must have insurance to participate. You may pick your own carrier. The Insurance purchased by the team will be adjusted to include 'Additional Insured' which will provide the Post or Sponsor additional insured status.

Who is required to do Background Checks?

Annual background screening is required for each coach, manager or person involved with the team must complete a background check at a cost of \$14 each, they will also receive a link for a Free Abuse Training which takes about 30 minutes to complete. This will be completed through Protect Youth Sports. If an individual has previously undergone a background screening of any kind, those results may not be substituted.

Can players participate in travel ball and Legion Softball at the same time?

Yes, Players ARE NOT committed to play only Legion Softball. However, each Legion team cannot exceed 5 players from an individual travel program or team. The goal is to be an alternative or even an addition to travel softball. Some players may not have the money or time to commit to a travel team. Legion softball would be a great fit for those who want a chance to play a higher caliber softball game within your community.

What is the cost per player?

Teams can decide on individual player costs based on their sponsorship, fundraising, and season expenses. Some leagues may charge no fee while others need to charge something. The goal is to keep this as low cost as possible.

What costs are associated with having a team? The anticipated amount would be dependent on multiple factors. The cost of a season can vary dramatically depending on your teams' access to equipment and fields. Some costs your team may incur include Game Ball Softballs, Equipment for Practices, First Aid Kit, Field fees, Insurance, Uniforms, Umpires, the \$150 Legion Fee, and the \$14 Background check fee per coach.

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Important/Required Dates/Deadlines for 2024 season:

- **May 1, 2024** - All teams must be registered, insurance paid, background checks and minor abuse training completed by all coaches.
- **June 12, 2024** - Rosters must be submitted to
- **July 12, 2024** - Scholarship applications due to
- **July 24-28** - District Tournaments @ TBD
- **July 30-Aug 4** - State Tournament @ TBD

Who do I contact with further questions?

Jodie Pajak – Committee Chairman

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Louie Brault – Vice Committee Chairman

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Lisa McPhee – Committee Member

Lredsox1964@aol.com (978) 230-6208

Grace Conner – Committee Member

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Ed Guzek – Committee Member

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	District
1	BERKSHIRE
2	FRANKLIN /HAMPSHIRE
3	HAMPDEN
4	WORCESTER
5	MIDDLESEX
6	NORFOLK
7	SUFFOLK
8	ESSEX
9	BRISTOL
10	PLY/BARN/NAN/DUKE



Here is the district break down for American Legion Department of MA and how American Legion Softball districts will be broken up in the future as the League grows. We understand in the beginning teams may be scattered throughout the state and hope to build year after year to achieve our goal of each district having multiple teams.