



Massachusetts Legion Softball 2024

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2024 A Groundbreaking Season!

The MA American Legion Softball League is sanctioned by the Department MA and abides by The American Legion, Department of MA policies, principles and rules. Offering a program for high school softball players that will help teams develop during the summer, and as with baseball, keep teams together. Legion Softball will also further build local pride and sense of community.

Does a post have to sponsor a Legion Softball Team?

It is requirement for a Legion Softball team to be sponsored by a Legion Post. Posts/Legion Family and other organizations may share sponsorship or another organization/business may carry full sponsorship. A Legion Softball team may also be self-funded/non-profit where money is raised through events, raffles and fees.

If a team is fully self funded and does not require Sponsorship then said team may register as Affiliated only with a Post in Name only

funding is very important in mainiaining a healthy softball program while keeping player fees to a minimum. Contacting your local Legion Post for sponsorship could yield a financial donation or assistance in fundraising.





IMPORTANTCE OF REGISTRATION

To avoid possible infringement on copyrights belonging to The American Legion, a team can't call themselves Legion Softball unless they register online as a Legion team!

ONLINE REGISTRATION

masslegion.org/legion-softball

- Registration
- Rosters
- Team Management
- Forms
- Handbook/Rules
- Tournaments and Games

In order for a Post to successfully sponsor a team, it is important for the coaching staff and Legionnaires to work together and to share the various duties and responsibilities.

Safety Screening

Annual background Screening

Each coach, manager or person involved with the team must complete a background check at a cost of \$14 each.

Abuse Training

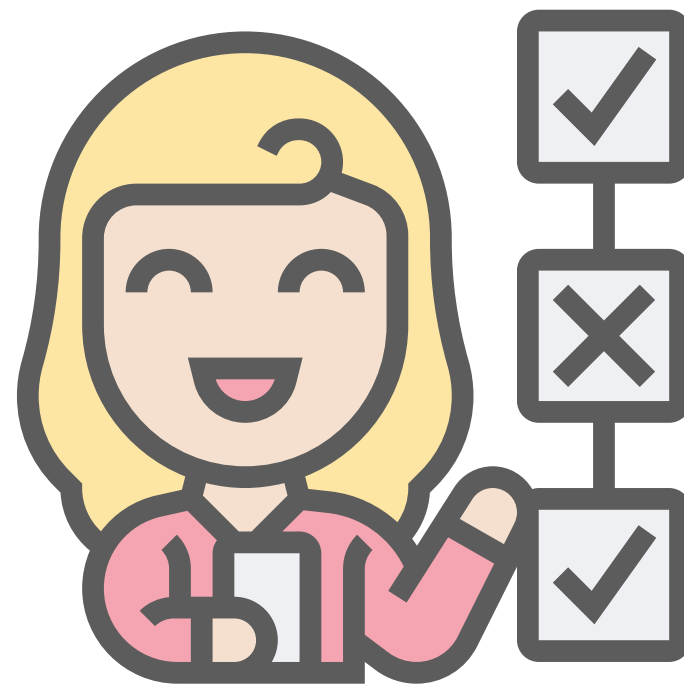
Each individual will receive a link for a free Abuse Training which takes about 30 minutes, and the link will remain active for two weeks.

Protect Youth Sports

To ensure consistency and protect confidentiality, all screening will be conducted by Protect Youth Sports..

No Substitutions

If an individual has previously undergone background screening through/for another organization, those results may not be substituted.



PROTECT
YOUTH SPORTS

Potential Full Season Costs



Potential first season budget

\$150	Legion Fee
\$250	Insurance, estimated
\$1170	Umpire fees for an 18 game season (our half/\$65)
\$160	Dudley Softballs (\$60 per dozen)
\$120	Field use fee. This could be more depending on the field and could be free
\$50	First Aid kit/Bag (may already have one)
\$14	Background check \$14 fee per coach
\$1,914	Total



Tournaments

2024 District Playoff

July 24-28

Location to be determined.

Please contact us if your team is interested in hosting a regional tournament. Location will be as geographically responsible as possible.

Tournament will be double elimination

2024 State

July 30- August 4

Location to be determined.

Division 1 and 2 will be held the same weekend.

Tournament will be double elimination

Uniforms and Patches



All players must be in like uniforms, and it is recommended teams wear the Massachusetts American Legion Softball patch on the left chest of the uniform. This will be required in the future but remains optional this year to minimize team startup costs. Coaches must have a sleeve patch on their outer most garment. These patches can be obtained from digital files for sublimated jerseys.

Deadlines

Registration

January 1 without financial penalty
Memorial Day registration closes

Roster

June 15

All-Star Nomination

June coming soon!

Scholarship

July coming soon!



Team Approval



Notice

You will be notified by email when your team application has been approved.

Fees

All teams are required to pay a registration fee to The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts.
These fees are payable online using a credit/debit card.

Insurance

Is not included in Registration Fee total

Deadlines

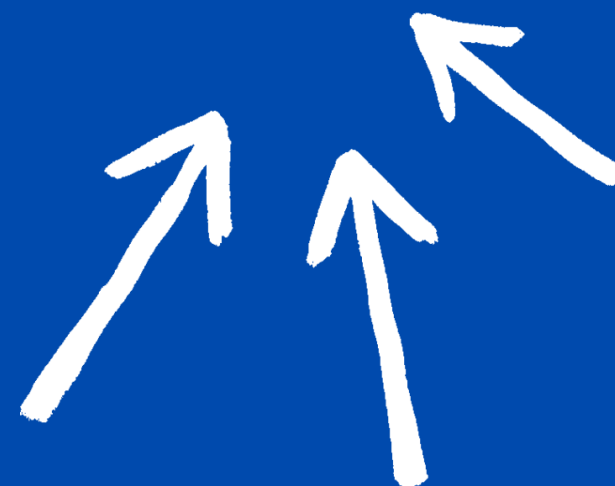
May 1, Registration deadline

Any team failing to register by Memorial Day shall not be permitted to play Legion Softball.

Refund deadline is June 1.

Form 2s to Directors before play.

START EARLY!



Coaches and Volunteers

Each person on your team application MUST complete the background check and abuse training for the team to be approved.

Anyone not completing both of these items will need to be removed in order for team approval and may hold up the process.

Consent Form & Proof of Age

Form #2


Form 2, player agreement must be filled out and signed for each player prior to the team's first game.

Original

The team manager shall retain the original.

Copy/Digital

A physical or digital copy must be sent to each team's Regional Director.

AMERICAN LEGION SOFTBALL 

2022 Form #2

Player Agreement *Please PRINT or TYPE*

PLAYER'S NAME

FOR ME, I AM the parent or other family member of the player

I certify that the information shown above regarding me is correct. I agree to devote my entire service as an American Legion Softball (ALS) player this season to (team name). I agree to abide by all ALS rules and regulations. I agree to accept the sole, exclusive and final jurisdiction and authority of The American Legion Department of Massachusetts Appeals Board over any ruling(s), dispute(s), disagreement(s), or subject matter having to do with or having any impact or effect upon the ALS program, rules, tournaments, administration, or games and their ruling shall be final without any rights of appeals. In addition, their ruling shall be considered that of an arbitrator to which the parties agree is a final adjudication of all matters in controversy. Voluntarily and of my own free will, I elect to participate in the ALS program and as a member of my ALS team.

I understand and acknowledge that the very nature of Softball has hazards that can cause serious injury and/or death. I assume all risks of injury and damage incident to my participation in ALS. I agree in the event of illness or injury during an ALS game or practice, I hereby give consent to the performance of such diagnostic, medical and/or surgical treatment as may be deemed medically necessary to assure my safety.

I have read and understand National Executive Committee Resolution No. 16: Expectations for Rendering Proper Respect when Participating in Programs of The American Legion, October 2016 (copy of which is available at www.archive.legion.org) and agree to be bound to the terms of said resolution.

I irrevocably consent to, and authorize the ALS, its licensees, agents, successors and assigns, to use my name, likeness, and voice and to reproduce, distribute, display, and to prepare derivative works of any images or recordings of me taken, or in which I may be included, in conjunction with or without my name, made through any medium, for publicity, advertising, promotional or any other lawful purpose without compensation to me.

I have read ALS's Privacy Policy, Drug and Alcohol Policy, and Fan Conduct Policy (copies of which are available at www.legion.org/SoftballResources) and agree to be bound to the terms of each such policy.

In consideration of the privilege to participate in the ALS program, hereby release, discharge, relinquish, agree not to take legal action against, hold harmless, and indemnify The American Legion, its officers, agents, representatives, employees and officials, ALS sponsors, supervisors, participants, players, agents, coaches, managers and persons transporting me to and from ALS activities, from any claims, demand, actions, and cause of action of any sort, arising out of my participation in the ALS program, including, but not limited to, (1) any injury or death sustained in connection with my participation in the ALS program, including but not limited to and from program related activities, whether the result of negligence or for any other cause; and (2) any ruling(s), dispute(s), disagreement(s), or subject matter having to do with or having any impact or effect upon the ALS program, rules, tournaments, administration, or games. Except as otherwise provided above, I agree that any dispute arising out of this agreement shall be governed by the rules of the Department of Massachusetts Athletic Committee, notwithstanding any conflicts of law principles. Any action relating to this agreement must be filed and maintained in a court in the state of Massachusetts, and users consent to exclusive jurisdiction and venue in such courts for such purpose.

I certify that I am a legal United States citizen, or possess legal residency, or visitor status to be in the United States, and that I shall provide proof of said legal status if requested prior to or during any American Legion national-level ALS participation. I further understand that I shall be denied participation in any American Legion national-level youth programs if I refuse to comply with providing proof of said legal status or am not legally in the United States.

Player's signature

Player's printed name Date

I am a parent with legal custody or legal guardian of the above player and hereby consent and agree to the foregoing terms and provisions on the above player's behalf.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature

Parent's or legal guardian's printed name

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It is strongly recommended that this form be notarized. Most hospitals require consent form to be notarized.
Send copy to Department Softball chairman. Team manager shall retain original.

Rules

NFHS

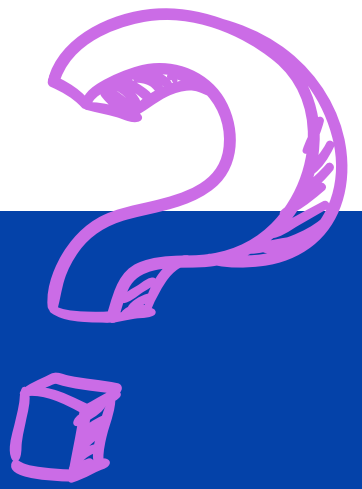
All games shall be played under the NFHS SOFTBALL RULES as published and as modified by the 2024 Massachusetts American Legion Softball Handbook



Equipment

All protective equipment is. helmets, catchers gear, must meet NOCSAE requirements.

Frequently Asked Questions



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

You can be sponsored by an American Legion Post, Auxiliary, SAL 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Frequently Asked Questions



What costs are associated with having a team?

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.

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 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

How is transportation coordinated?

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

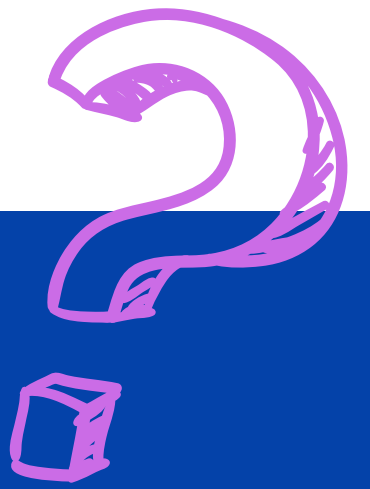
Who is in charge of umpires for games?

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).

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 of Legion Softball is to also reach the higher caliber athletes who may not be able to afford travel softball. They must play 10 regular season game to qualify for their regional tournament. You would play in a double-elimination regional tournament and if you placed in the top two spots you then would qualify for the State tournament at no extra registration cost to your program. Potentially getting two tournaments for the price of one.

Frequently Asked Questions



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.

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.

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 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.

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.

Contact Information

Committee Chairman

Jodie Pajak 208-741-1835

malegionladyfastpitch@gmail.com

Vice Chairman

Louie Brault 413-885-2902

louisbrault@yahoo.com

Chairman

Lisa McPhee 978-230-6208

lredsox1964@aol.com

Grace Conner 774-239-2028

gconner2@charter.net

Ed Guczek 413-244-2579

info@sportingedgemarketing.com

Interested in being more involved?

We are looking for volunteers to help with program promotion, as well as coaches and sponsors!

If you would like more information as the season progresses or to get more involved, please submit your contact information at

MALEGIONLADYFASTPITCH@GMAIL.COM

Please email or call with any questions you may have!

Legion Softball Recap



fees

Team registration fees for 2024 season will be \$150. This covers administration fees, Dist/Zone playoff and State playoff if advanced. (That's two tournaments for the price of one!)

Refunds

Any registered team who is unable to successfully fill a roster before the season, may receive a registration refund prior to June 1.

Sponsorship/Grant Contacts

Please contact Jodie if you're interested in helping with program sponsorship at a state level, tournament hosting or sponsorship or if you have a direct contact for a potential program corporate sponsor.

START EARLY!

masslegion.org

>>Programs

>>Softball

Calendar of Events

LEGION SOFTBALL District
TOURNAMENTS
July 24-28, 2024
Locations TBD

DIVISION 1 & 2 LEGION SOFTBALL
STATE TOURNAMENTS
July 30- Aug 4, 2024
Location TBD

January 1, 2024	Registration opens
Memorial Day	Registration deadline
	with no financial penalty
June 1, 2024	Registration & Refund deadline