

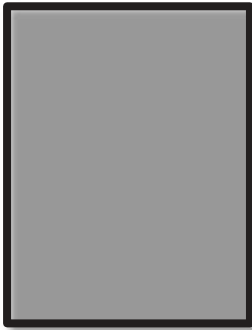
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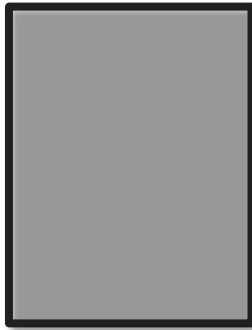
MASSACHUSETTS AMERICAN LEGION SOFTBALL HANDBOOK



MASSACHUSETTS AMERICAN LEGION FASTPITCH SOFTBALL



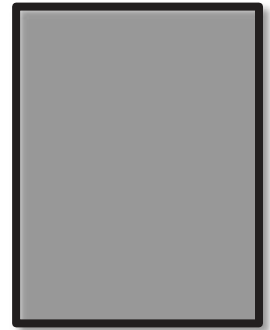
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Scott Connor



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Dick Paster
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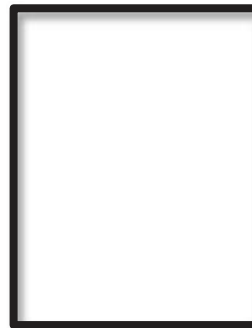
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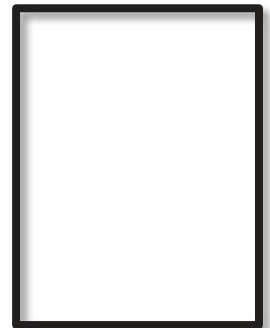
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Sons of the
American Legion
Mark McCue



Advisors to the Board
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2026 IMPORTANT ACTIONS & DATES

<p>Complete Team Registration: Instructions & forms ARE ONLINE masslegion.org/programs/legion-softball</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY – TEAM REGISTRATION DEADLINE All teams must be registered with the Massachusetts American Legion Softball League. By this date, each team must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed SB Form #1 (Post/Sponsor Agreement) • Completed SB Form #4 (for new teams only) • Proof of team insurance • Background checks and Protect Youth Sports training completed for all coaches/managers 	<p><u>DEADLINE:</u> MEMORIAL DAY</p>
REGISTRATION OPENS	January 1, 2026
<p>Registration Form #2 must be kept with the team manager/head coach. Any team and/or player that fails to comply will not be able to participate in tournament play.</p>	
MANDATORY PRESEASON COACHES MEETING	May 18, 2026
<p>All team managers and coaches are required to attend the preseason coaches meeting. During this meeting, the season schedule will be finalized, the doubleheader format for the season will be agreed upon, and any questions regarding rules, rosters, or forms will be addressed.</p>	
ROSTER DEADLINE	June 14, 2026
<p>Official rosters (including SB Form #2 notarized Player Agreements, Parent/Athlete Agreements, and birth certificates for each player) must be submitted to the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee. A copy of each player's birth certificate must also be on file and kept with the team manager/head coach.</p>	
ALL-STAR NOMINATIONS DUE TO AMERICAN LEGION SOFTBALL COMMITTEE	July 11, 2026
SOFTBALL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS	July 22, 2026
<p>Scholarship applications must be received by this date.</p>	
DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS	July 26-Aug 1, 2026
<p>If enough teams register in different areas of Massachusetts, District Tournaments will be scheduled. District winners will advance to Regionals.</p>	
REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS	Aug 1- 8, 2026
<p>Regional Tournaments bring together the winners of District play. If there are not enough teams statewide for Districts, a single Regional Tournament may serve as the postseason.</p>	
STATE TOURNAMENT	Aug 1- 8, 2026
<p>If enough teams are established across Massachusetts, a State Tournament will be held to crown the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Champion.</p>	
ALL-STAR GAME	Week 5 of the Season
<p>If scheduled, the All-Star Game will be held at the conclusion of the season.</p>	

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS	
Softball Meeting,	January, 2026
Softball Meeting, 9 a.m.–Closed session; 10:00 a.m.	February x, 2026
Softball Meeting,	September x,2026
Softball Meeting,	January x, 2026

Making History!



Thank you in advance for your participation in the 2026 Massachusetts American Legion Softball season. Massachusetts is excited to be one of the first states in the U.S. to offer Legion Softball, complete with a postseason opportunity that many current leagues don't have. Massachusetts Legion Softball will uphold the same crucial values that are a part of existing American Legion youth programs. Legion sportsmanship, character, and values follow players long after the game is complete. Ties to the community and veterans in the community are an important aspect that some other leagues don't offer.

Good luck to all teams in the 2026 season, and thank you for your support of American Legion Softball.

Jodie Pajak, Chairman

Code of Sportsmanship

I WILL:

- KEEP the rules**
- KEEP faith with my teammates**
- KEEP my temper**
- KEEP myself fit**
- KEEP a stout heart in defeat**
- KEEP my pride under in victory**
- KEEP a sound soul, a clean mind and healthy body.**



"Resolved, That the National Americanism Commission does hereby emphasize and call attention to the Legion post and to Legionnaires individually that the principles of good sportsmanship in connection with the activity should at all times be held paramount to the end that the greatest good may come from the activity of the Legion." (Res. 2, NEC, May 1932)

2026 NFHS Rule Changes

1-9-6: No player shall transmit or record audio or video from the playing surface. New language further clarifies the use of electronic devices and what is not permitted.

Rationale: This change clearly defines the types of electronic devices prohibited by the rule.

Rule 8: Rule 8 has been reformatted for clarity. Changes have separated longer articles, and organized exceptions, penalties, and effects into outline format for improved comprehension.

Rationale: Added article references to **PENALTIES** and **EFFECTS**, and **Section 4** was separated into two sections addressing runners entitled to advance with and without liability to be put out to delineate differences.

10-4-2: Umpires have the option of wearing heather gray, charcoal gray, or navy blue slacks. Effective January 1, 2027, heather gray slacks will no longer be permitted as part of the umpire's uniform.

Rationale: Manufacturers have discontinued producing heather gray umpire pants. This change will assist umpires in the purchase of pants that are currently being manufactured.

PLAYING RULES & MASSACHUSETTS ADAPTATIONS

All Massachusetts American Legion Softball games are played under NFHS Softball Rules, with the following adaptations approved by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee:

1. **Batting Order**
 - a. Regular season games may use either:
 - i. Standard NFHS 9-player batting order with the DP/FLEX option, OR
 - ii. Bat the entire roster.
 - b. Both coaches must agree before the start of the game. If no agreement is reached, the default is a 9-player lineup with DP/FLEX.
 - c. Postseason play (District, Regional, or State) will use the standard 9-player lineup with DP/FLEX.
2. **Double First Base**
 - a. A double first base is required for all games.
3. **Mercy Rule**
 - a. 15 runs after 3 innings, or 10 runs after 4 innings, once the trailing team has completed its at-bat.
 - b. Mercy rules will apply in both regular season and postseason play.
4. **Time Limits**
 - a. A 90-minute time limit will apply to all regular-season games.
 - b. No new inning may begin once the 90-minute limit has expired.
 - c. There is no time limit in postseason play.
5. **Doubleheaders**
 - a. Doubleheaders may be scheduled as one of the following formats:
 - i. Two 5-inning games
 - ii. One 7-inning game and one 5-inning game.
 - iii. Two full 7-inning games with an 80-minute time limit per game
 - b. All coaches must agree upon the doubleheader format before the season schedule is finalized at the mandatory coaches' meeting.
6. **Tie-Breaker Rule (Regular Season Only)**
 - a. The international tiebreaker may be used if the game is tied after 7 innings.
 - b. Each team begins the extra inning with the last batter from the previous inning placed on second base.
 - c. Tie-breakers are **not** used in postseason play.
7. **Suspended Games**
 - a. Any game called before 5 innings are complete (or 4½ innings with the home team ahead) and is considered a **suspended game** and must be resumed from the point of interruption.
8. **Field Requirements**
 - a. All games must be played on regulation softball fields with an outfield fence at 185'-235'.
 - b. A temporary fence may be used if necessary.
9. **Equipment Requirements**
 - a. All protective equipment (helmets, catcher's gear, etc.) must meet **NOCSAE standards**.
 - b. Homemade devices and weighted training implements are not permitted in the on-deck circle.
10. **Sportsmanship Props**
 - a. No celebratory props are allowed outside the dugout.
11. **National Anthem Requirement**
 - a. The National Anthem must be played before the start of every Massachusetts American Legion Softball game.
 - b. All players, coaches, and spectators are expected to stand and show proper respect during the Anthem in accordance with Sportsmanship & Conduct Rule 4.

LEAGUE RULES

1. Fee Chart

- a. Each team must pay a registration fee of **\$300** to Massachusetts American Legion Softball.
- b. Teams are responsible for the cost of their own equipment, uniforms, and insurance.
- c. Umpire fees for regular-season games are split evenly between the home and away teams.
- d. Additional postseason costs, if applicable, will be announced by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee.

2. Age Eligibility

- a. Players must be enrolled in grades 8 through 12 during the academic year of competition and must be under the age of 19 as of **Memorial Day**.
- b. Proof of age is required for each player. Acceptable documents include a birth certificate, a state-issued ID or driver's license, or a passport.
- c. Hospital records, or school-issued documents are not acceptable as proof of age.

3. Rosters

- a. Minimum roster size is 9 players.
- b. Recommended roster size is 12-18 players.
- c. Maximum roster size is 18 players.
- d. Rosters must be submitted to the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee by **June 14, 2026**.
- e. Roster changes after this deadline will only be allowed in cases of season-ending injury, illness, or relocation, and must be approved by the Committee.

4. Roster Integrity and Guest Players

- a. Guest players are not permitted in Massachusetts American Legion Softball.
- b. Any team found using a player who is not listed on its official roster will automatically forfeit the game in which the violation occurred.
- c. Opposing coaches have the right to question the eligibility of any player during a game.
- d. Team managers must be prepared to provide proof of roster eligibility upon request. This includes the SB Form #2 (Player Agreement) and a copy of the player's proof of age kept on file with the team manager.

5. Recruiting & Player Participation

- a. Players may participate in both Legion Softball and other softball programs (travel, club, recreation).
- b. No more than five (5) players from the same travel organization, program, or team may appear on one Legion roster.
- c. As the league grows, teams will be organized around a base town or school, with players drawn from that community and surrounding towns within a set radius.
- d. Until that system is formally established, players may come from anywhere in Massachusetts; however, players are expected to play for their local Legion Post whenever possible, or for a Legion team located within their county or region.

6. Team Sponsorship & Affiliation

- a. Teams must be sponsored by an American Legion Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, Riders, or an approved co-sponsor such as a business or recreational league.
- b. A self-funded team may be affiliated in name only with a sponsoring Post. In this case, the Post provides its name and support for affiliation but does not provide financial assistance or cover any team expenses. All costs of operating the team are the responsibility of the team itself.
- c. All sponsorships, including self-funded affiliations, must be approved by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee.

LEAGUE RULES

7. Insurance

- a. Each team must carry accident and liability insurance, **WITH** its sponsoring Post listed as an additional insured. Teams are responsible for the cost of their own equipment, uniforms, and insurance.
- b. Proof of insurance must be submitted before the registration deadline.
- c. Teams without approved insurance will not be permitted to participate in the season.

8. Background Checks & Abuse Training

All team managers, coaches, and assistant coaches must undergo annual background screening and abuse awareness training before participating in any meetings, practices, games, or events involving youth athletes.

- a. Federal law requires screenings and trainings to be completed each year.
- b. To ensure consistency and protect confidentiality, all screenings must be conducted through the designated vendor. Results from other organizations cannot be substituted.
- c. The process is completed through Protect Youth Sports, accessible at <https://www.masslegion.org/programs/legion-softball>
- d. Each individual is responsible for paying their own background screening fee.
- e. Coaches or staff who have not completed both the background check and the abuse awareness training are not permitted to take part in team activities.

9. Uniforms & Equipment

- a. All teams must wear matching uniforms (tops and bottoms).
- b. All players and coaches must display the official Massachusetts American Legion Softball patch on the left chest or left sleeve. Uniforms must also include the sponsoring Post number somewhere on the jersey and player numbers on the back.
- c. Helmets, catcher's gear, and bats must meet NFHS and NOCSAE standards.

10. Communication Policy

- a. Coaches and team officials must maintain appropriate communication with players under 18.
- b. Any text, email, or electronic message should copy a parent or guardian.
- c. All team communications are expected to follow the values of the American Legion and reflect positively on the program.

SPORTSMANSHIP & CONDUCT

Massachusetts American Legion Softball expects all players, coaches, and spectators to display the highest level of sportsmanship at all times. Respect for the game, teammates, opponents, umpires, and the American Legion is required.

1. Ejections and Suspensions

- a. A player or coach who is ejected from a game will be suspended for the remainder of that game and the following game.
- b. A second ejection in the same season will result in suspension for the remainder of the season.
- c. Any individual who is ejected must leave the field, dugout, and spectator area immediately.

2. Tobacco, Alcohol, and Substances

The use of tobacco, vaping products, alcohol, or illegal substances by players, coaches, or umpires is prohibited on the playing field, in the dugout, or in the bench area. Any violation will result in immediate ejection.

3. Bench and Dugout Conduct

Only rostered players, coaches, and approved team staff are permitted in the dugout and bench area. Coaches and players are expected to maintain professional behavior and represent their team and the American Legion with respect.

4. Respect for the National Anthem and Flag

All players, coaches, and spectators must stand and show respect during the National Anthem and when the American flag is displayed. Anthem standoffs or unsportsmanlike displays are prohibited and may result in ejection or further disciplinary action.

HEALTH & SAFETY

1. Concussion Protocol

Any player suspected of having a concussion must be removed from the game immediately and may not return without written medical clearance from a licensed healthcare provider. This follows Massachusetts state law.

2. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Protocol

Any player who faints, loses consciousness, or shows signs of sudden cardiac arrest must be removed from play and may not return without medical clearance from a licensed healthcare provider. This follows Massachusetts state law.

3. Blood Rule

A player who is bleeding, has an open wound, or has blood on their uniform must be removed from the game until the condition has been properly addressed.

4. First Aid Preparedness

Each team is responsible for having a stocked first aid kit available at all games and practices. Emergency medical services must be called immediately if a serious injury occurs.

PROTESTS & APPEALS

1. Grounds for Protest

Protests may only be filed on matters of player eligibility or rule interpretation. Judgment calls by umpires are not subject to protest.

2. Filing Procedure

A written protest must be submitted to the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee within **24 hours** of the game in question and accompanied by a **\$25.00 appeal fee** to the State Softball Chairman for action by the State Protest Board. Such an appeal may be made by mail or e-mail. The appeal fee will be returned only if the appeal is upheld by the State Protest Board.

3. In-Game Notification

The umpire and opposing coach must be notified at the time of the protest that the game is being played under protest.

4. Final Authority

The Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee will review all protests. The Committee's decision is final.

POSTSEASON PLAY

1. Eligibility

Teams must complete a minimum of **10 GAMES** during the regular season to qualify for postseason play. All team paperwork, fees, and rosters must be in good standing.

2. Tournament Formats

- a. District Tournaments- If enough teams register in different areas of Massachusetts, District Tournaments will be scheduled. Winners advance to Regionals.
- b. Regional Tournaments - Regional Tournaments bring together District winners. If there are not enough teams statewide for Districts, a single Regional Tournament may serve as the postseason.
- c. State Tournament - If the league has grown to include multiple regions, a State Tournament will be held to crown the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Champion.

POSTSEASON PLAY

3. Seeding

Seeding for postseason tournaments will be based on regular season standings, using overall win-loss record as the primary factor.

- a. Tiebreakers will be applied in the following order:
 1. Head-to-head results between tied teams
 2. Fewest runs allowed in league play
 3. Run differential in league play
 4. Coin toss conducted by the Committee

The Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee will publish the official seedings prior to the start of postseason play.

4. Tournament Format

- a. Postseason tournaments may be conducted as single elimination or double elimination, at the discretion of the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee each year.
- b. The format will be announced prior to the start of postseason play.

5. Tournament Requirements

Teams participating in postseason play must comply with all rules, roster requirements, and conduct expectations outlined in this handbook. Any violation may result in disqualification.

6. Tournament Hosting

Until the Massachusetts American Legion Softball program has expanded to include a larger number of teams and regions, postseason tournaments will be assigned and overseen directly by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee. A formal bid process and host requirements may be introduced in future years as the program grows.

ALL-STAR GAME (if applicable)

1. Purpose

- a. The Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee may host an All-Star Game at the conclusion of the season to showcase outstanding players from across the state.

2. Eligibility

- a. All players in good standing are eligible to be nominated.
- b. Players who have been ejected or suspended during the season are not eligible for All-Star selection.

3. Nominations

- a. Each team may nominate up to **4** players for consideration.
- b. The number of nominations per team may be adjusted annually depending on how many total teams are registered. Example: With 6 teams, each team may nominate up to 4 players.
- c. As the league grows, the number per team may be reduced (for example, 2-3 players per team).

4. Selection

- a. Final selections will be made by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee with input from coaches.
- b. Rosters will be balanced by position to ensure a complete team.

5. Format

- a. If all teams are located in a single region, the Committee may:
 - i. Create mixed rosters by combining players from multiple teams into two balanced teams,
OR
 - ii. Split players into geographic groups (such as North vs. South, or East vs. West) to create a fair matchup.
- b. If the league grows to multiple regions, the format may expand to regional teams competing against each other.

SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Current Scholarship

The **Kelly A. McCue Memorial Softball Scholarship**, sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion, Department of Massachusetts, awards **\$1,000** annually to one deserving Massachusetts American Legion Softball player.

2. Eligibility

- a. Applicants must be on the current roster of a Massachusetts American Legion Softball team.
- b. Applicants must be incoming college freshmen for the following academic year. (Players entering active-duty military service directly after graduation are eligible with proof of enlistment.)
- c. Players with disciplinary suspensions or ejections during the season are not eligible.

3. Nominations

- a. Any coach or manager of an American Legion-sanctioned softball team may nominate a player for consideration.
- b. All nominations and application materials must be received by **July 22, 2026**.

4. Application Requirements

Applications must include:

- a. Completed scholarship application form
- b. Letters of recommendation (one required from a Legion coach, Post officer, or community leader)
- c. A 200-word essay describing how Legion Softball prepared the applicant for the future (extra consideration is given for including a memorable moment with a veteran)
- d. Family information and adjusted gross income (as part of need-based consideration)

5. Selection and Award

- a. The Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee will review all applications and select the recipient.
- b. The winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by the Sons of The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts.
- c. Scholarship payments will be made directly to the recipient. If the recipient withdraws or does not complete the school year, funds must be returned.

6. Future Scholarships

As Massachusetts American Legion Softball grows, additional scholarships may be established and awarded at the discretion of the Committee.

SB FORM #1 Post/Sponsor Agreement



AGREEMENT LADY'S FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

In consideration of the filing fees, forfeit fee, and the continuation of the Softball Program of The Massachusetts American Legion Baseball/Softball Committee agrees to allow Post/Sponsor _____ of the American Legion, Department of Massachusetts to enter a team in competition during the upcoming season upon the acceptance by the Post/Sponsor of the following conditions:

1. That the Post/Sponsor complies with all rules and regulations as set out in the handbook directives, orders, and any other rules and regulations adopted by the Committee.
2. That in case of a disagreement of any type arising, that the Post/Sponsor, and all representatives thereof, agree to be bound and to abide by the decision of the Committee and with further regard to any disagreement, that the decision of the Committee shall be binding on the Post/Sponsor and representatives thereof, immediately upon the Committee making said decision.
3. That all matters relating to MA American Legion Lady Fast Pitch Softball arising in Massachusetts shall be referred to the Committee for decision.
4. That any applicable appeal of a Committee decision shall comply with the American Legion, Department of MA Constitution and By-Laws, and no effort shall be made to embarrass, degrade, harass or ridicule the Committee or any members thereof.
5. That the Committee shall have the absolute right to suspend, bar, or disqualify any team, player, coach or any other person connected with the MA American Legion Lady's Fast Pitch Softball Program for failure to abide by this Agreement or any of the rules, regulations, directives, orders or instructions by the Committee.
6. That all parties hereto understand that this Agreement shall include all matters relating to MA American Legion Lady Fast Pitch Softball in Massachusetts, and that to seek a decision on any matter in regards thereto outside of the Committee itself shall be in violation hereof, except for an applicable appeal which complies with the American Legion, Department of MA Constitution and By-Laws and sent to the Massachusetts Baseball/Softball Chairman for review by the duly elected Judge Advocate of The Department of MA, and his ruling shall be final without any rights of appeal.
7. That the Post/Sponsor agrees to the proceeding's terms and conditions in consideration of its being allowed to enter a team in the Massachusetts American Legion Lady's Fast Pitch Softball Program.
8. In consideration of the Post/Sponsor being allowed to play Massachusetts American Legion Lady's Fast Pitch Softball, the Post/Sponsor hereby agrees to defend, protect and indemnify the American Legion, Department of MA, its Officers and Directors, its employees and agents, and members from any and all liabilities including their negligence associated in any form with Massachusetts American Legion Lady Fast Pitch Softball.
9. The Post/Sponsor agrees the sole interpretation of this Agreement shall be determined by the duly elected Judge Advocate of the Department of MA, and his ruling shall be final without any rights of appeals. In addition, his ruling shall be considered that of an arbitrator to which the parties agree is a final adjudication of all matters in controversy.
10. This Agreement shall be interpreted under the laws of the Great State of Massachusetts.

ACCEPTED BY: _____
Authorized Post/Sponsor Official ADJ/Sec.

Authorized Post/Sponsor Official Cmdr./President

**(Note: Please send this form to the address below along with your registration fees no later than MEMORIAL DAY)
(Coaches must forward a copy to the Department Softball Chairman) (Coaches must maintain a copy for their records)**

Attest:

Secretary

Make Checks or Money Orders to:

The American Legion Dept. MA
Write: *'Lady's Fastpitch'* in memo area

Mail to: The American Legion Dept of MA
24 Beacon St.
State House RM 546-2
Boston MA 02133

CONCUSSION IN YOUTH SPORTS

Massachusetts Concussion Law Act 172 - Statute 118.293

Note: The law was amended in 2013 and the concussion information and acknowledgement must only be distributed and collected once per school year. Effective: **December 15, 2013.**

Summary

The law requires all youth athletic organizations to educate coaches, athletes and parents on the risks of concussions and head injuries and prohibits participation in a youth activity until the athlete and parent or guardian has returned a signed agreement sheet indicating they have reviewed the concussion and head injury informational materials. The law requires immediate removal of an individual from a youth athletic activity if symptoms indicate a possible concussion has been sustained. A person who has been removed from a youth athletic activity because of a determined or suspected concussion or head injury, may not participate again until he or she is evaluated by a health care provider and receives written clearance from the health care provider to return to the activity.

“At the beginning of a season for a youth athletic activity, the person operating the youth athletic activity shall distribute a concussion and head injury information sheet to each person who will be coaching that youth athletic activity and to each person who wishes to participate in that youth athletic activity. **No person may participate in a youth athletic activity unless the person returns the information sheet signed by the person and, if he or she is under the age of 19, by his or her parent or guardian.**”

COACHES

Please take time to complete the online course listed below. Sign the Coaches Agreement and keep a copy on file with your Team Administrator.

Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports is an online training course provided by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention. The course helps coaches and parents recognize and respond to a concussion by featuring interviews from experts, descriptive graphics, real-life stories and interactive exercises.

The CDC makes this requirement possible with its Heads Up course, which is free and only takes about 30 minutes to complete.

To take the course just log on to: <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/Training/HeadsUpConcussion.html>



An athletic coach or official involved in a youth athletic activity or health care provider shall remove a person from the youth athletic activity if the coach, official, or health care provider determines that the person exhibits signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury –OR– the coach, official, or health care provider suspects the person has sustained a concussion or head injury.

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

Massachusetts Sudden Cardiac Arrest Statute 118.2935

Note: Sudden cardiac arrest; youth athletic activities was signed into law in March 2022. Beginning July 1, 2022, school districts and other persons who operate certain youth athletic activities must distribute information about the risks associated with continuing to participate in a youth athletic activity after experiencing warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest to coaches, parents, and student athletes.

Summary

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in young athletes while training or participating in sport competition. Even athletes who appear healthy and have a normal preparticipation screening may have underlying heart abnormalities that can be life threatening.

“At the beginning of a season for a youth athletic activity, the person operating the youth athletic activity shall distribute a concussion/head injury and sudden cardiac arrest information sheet to each person who will be coaching that youth athletic activity and to each person who wishes to participate in that youth athletic activity. No person may participate in a youth athletic activity unless the person returns the information sheet signed by the person and, if he or she is under the age of 19, by his or her parent or guardian.

What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

Occurs suddenly and often without warning.

An electrical malfunction (short-circuit) causes the bottom chambers of the heart (ventricles) to beat dangerously fast (ventricular tachycardia or fibrillation) and disrupts the pumping ability of the heart.

The heart cannot pump blood to the brain, lungs and other organs of the body.

The person loses consciousness (passes out) and has no pulse.

Death occurs within minutes if not treated immediately.

What are the symptoms/warning signs of Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

Fainting/blackouts (especially during exercise)

Dizziness

Unusual fatigue/weakness

Chest pain

Shortness of breath

Nausea/vomiting

Palpitations (heart is beating unusually fast or skipping beats)

Family history of sudden cardiac arrest at age < 50

An athletic coach or official involved in a youth athletic activity or health care provider shall remove a person from the youth athletic activity if the coach, official, or health care provider determines that the person exhibits signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with sudden cardiac arrest ANY of these symptoms/warning signs that occur while exercising may necessitate further evaluation from your physician before returning to practice or a game. ** Note that a student-athlete who exhibits unexplained fainting may be SCA because it is the number one warning sign of a potential heart condition. **



PARENT & ATHLETE AGREEMENT

As a Parent and as an Athlete it is important to recognize the signs, symptoms, and behaviors of concussions and sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). By signing this form, you are stating that you understand the importance of recognizing and responding to the signs, symptoms, and behaviors of a concussion, head injury or sudden cardiac arrest.

Parent Agreement:

I _____ have **read** the Parent Concussion and Head Injury and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information and **understand** what a concussion is and how it may be caused. I also understand the common signs, symptoms, and behaviors of a concussion and SCA. I agree that my child must be removed from practice/play if a concussion or SCA are suspected.

I understand that it is my responsibility to seek medical treatment if a suspected concussion or SCA are reported to me.

I understand that my child cannot return to practice/play until providing written clearance from an appropriate health care provider to his/her coach.

I understand the possible consequences of my child returning to practice/play too soon.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

_____ Date _____

Athlete Agreement:

I _____ have **read** the Athlete Concussion and Head Injury and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information (SCA) and **understand** what a concussion is and how it may be caused. I also understand the common signs, symptoms, and behaviors of a concussion and SCA.

I understand the importance of reporting a suspected concussion or SCA symptoms to my coaches and my parents/guardian.

I understand that I must be removed from practice/play if a concussion or SCA are suspected. I understand that I must provide written clearance from an appropriate health care provider to my coach before returning to practice/play.

I understand the possible consequence of returning to practice/play too soon and that my brain/body needs time to heal.

Athlete Signature _____ Date _____

This form may be copied and reproduced



Form #2

Player Agreement

Please PRINT or TYPE

PLAYER'S NAME

First, MI, Last (as it appears on driver license or birth certificate)

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 The American Legion 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/Softball/resources) 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 travel 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 are 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



Form #2 Continued

Player Information Sheet

Please PRINT or TYPE

Player's name *(first, middle, last)*

Parent's home address *(street address, city, state, ZIP)*

Parent's telephone number

Emergency contact person & phone number

Medical Insurance Policy #

Family physician & phone number

Junior High or High school attending

Year of graduation

School enrollment *(grades 8, 9, 10, 11, 12)*

Player's email address

Player's Birth Date (Month/Year)

Primary position

Player's height

Player's weight

Bats

Throws

Player Recruitment

Massachusetts American Legion Softball is a community-based program. Players are expected to play for the team that is closest to where they live or go to school.

1. Home Team

- a. Every player has a home team. A player's home team is determined by the location of their parents' or guardians' legal domicile or the school they attend, whichever is closest to a registered Massachusetts American Legion Softball team. Players are expected to play for their home team.
- b. If a player contacts a team and there is a registered Legion team closer to that player's home or school, the expectation is that the player is directed to the closer team first. That team has the first opportunity to roster that player.
- c. If a team is unable to accept a player for any reason, including because adding that player would exceed the five-player limit from the same travel organization, program, or team, the player shall move to the next closest registered Massachusetts American Legion Softball team to their home or school, whichever is applicable. The player may use either their home address or their school address to determine the next-closest team, using the shortest driving distance calculated by Google Maps.

2. Player Placement

- a. As the program continues to grow and geographic zones are still being established, players may come from anywhere in Massachusetts; however, they must first be considered by the closest registered team, as determined by the shortest driving distance using Google Maps, and may only be placed on another team if that team is unable to roster them.
- b. Players should not skip over closer teams based on preference. If a team cannot accept a player due to the five-player travel limit, or the team is full and has no spots that is a valid reason to move to the next closest team.

3. Returning Players

- a. Players who have previously participated in Massachusetts American Legion Softball are expected to return to the team they last played for.
- b. Movement to a new team should only occur when there is a valid reason, such as a new team forming that is geographically closer to the player's home or school, the player's family has relocated, or the player's previous team is no longer registered for the current season.
- c. Any exception requires written approval from the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee prior to the player being listed on a new roster.

4. Option Rule

- a. Players attending a high school via school choice may have the option of playing for the team nearest the high school they attend or the team nearest their parents' legal domicile.
- b. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps. This must be approved by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee prior to the roster deadline.

5. Transfer Rule

- a. A player who cannot be placed on their home team must submit a signed Transfer Form #76 to the new team manager. This form must be forwarded to the State Softball Chairman for approval before the player may be listed on any roster.
- b. A player who is requesting to play for a team other than their official home team must complete Team Declaration Form #77. This form must be approved by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee before the player may be placed on any roster. A Team Declaration Form does not override home team priority and may not be used to bypass a closer eligible team.
- c. Both forms are included in this handbook immediately following this section. No player movement is official until the appropriate form has been submitted and approved by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee.

6. Change of Address

- a. A player whose parents or guardians establish a new permanent legal domicile shall be eligible to compete for the team nearest the new address.
- b. A notarized statement listing the previous and new address must be submitted, and written permission must be obtained from the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee before the player may be listed on a roster.

7. Final Year of Eligibility

- a. A player in their final year of eligibility whose parents or guardians move out of the area shall have the option of playing for the team nearest their parents' new domicile or returning to their former team.
- b. Written permission must be obtained from the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee prior to being listed on a roster.

8. Home schooled Players

- a. A player who is home-schooled may compete for the team nearest their parents' or guardians' legal domicile. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.
- b. Written permission must be obtained from the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee prior to being listed on a roster.

9. School Choice Players

- a. A player who attends a school outside of their home district through a school choice program may play for either the team nearest the school they attend or the team nearest their parents or guardians' legal domicile, whichever the player chooses. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.
- b. This choice must be declared and approved by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee prior to the roster deadline. Once declared, the player is committed to that team for the duration of the season.

10. New Team Formation

- a. If a new Legion team forms that is geographically closer to a player's home or school than their previous team, that player has a one-time option to remain with their current team or move to the new team.
- b. This option exists to support program growth, not to allow team shopping.

11. Committee Authority

- a. The Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee has full authority over all player placement decisions.
- b. Any eligibility question, placement dispute, or exception request must be submitted to the committee for final decision. The Committee's ruling is final.

Player Transfer Form #76 and Team Declaration Form #77 are included on the pages immediately following this section. No player movement is considered official until the appropriate completed and signed form has been submitted to and approved by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee.

American Legion Softball



Player Transfer Form #76

Please PRINT or TYPE

This form is to be used by players who have been cut and released by an American Legion team. Released players may be eligible to transfer under rules 3.B.1 or 4.D to the next closest team.

1. American Legion Softball senior players are required to play for the closest team unless released, in which case the player shall need to determine the next closest team using Google Maps.
2. If the player is unable to earn a spot on the roster of the second team, that player shall be allowed to play for the third closest team, etc.
3. All parties involved understand that this transfer is valid from January 1 to December 31 of the current season only.
4. All parties understand that the department Softball chairman must approve this transfer prior to placing player on National Form #1.

Permission is hereby requested for	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Player's full name	Player's date of birth
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Parent's address, city, state, ZIP	Parent's phone number	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Player's high school	High school enrollment	Team's total enrollment

Player is hereby released from the following team:	<input type="text"/>
	Name of former team (print or type)

<input type="text"/>

Player's signature (print and sign)

<input type="text"/>

Parent's signature (print and sign)

<input type="text"/>		
Name of new team (print or type)		
<input type="text"/>		
Team manager's signature and printed name (former team)		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Manager's signature - Team 1 (print and sign)	Manager's signature - Team 2 (print and sign)	Manager's signature - Team 3 (print and sign)

<input type="text"/>

Department Softball Chairman signature and date

This form must be filed with state chairman. The team manager shall retain copy for his files. This form shall be filed with department headquarters.

MA American Legion Lady Softball Fastpitch



Team Declaration Form #77

Please PRINT or TYPE

This form is to be used by players who request a transfer to a team other than their official home team.

1. Play for the MA American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball team nearest their parent's or court-ordered guardian's legal domicile OR
2. Play for the team nearest the school the player attends.

Authorization for this choice is outlined in the current MA American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball Rule Book.

Player's name (print or type)

Parent's address (print or type)

Phone number

I declare I am requesting a transfer from my Official Home Team as is defined by the current MA ALLFP Softball Rule Book!

Name of American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball team and sponsoring American Legion post number

Official Home Team/Post Requesting a Transfer from!

Team/Post Requesting a Transfer too!

My parents and I understand that this declaration shall be valid from January 1 to December 31 of the current season only.

Player's signature (print and sign)

Parent's signature (print and sign)

Official Home Team Manager 's Signature and Printed Name (print and sign)

- The Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman must approve this form prior to the player being placed on the Roster of the Team she is transferring too!
- To determine the next team, The MA American Legion shall use google map shortest driving distance between the parent's / players domicile to determine the next closest Post/Team Playing Field Address of Eligibility.

Signature Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman

Date



**Team manager shall retain a copy for his files.
Second copy shall be filed with Form #1 and filed with the Area Director!**

Revised 09/2025

2026 ALL-STAR NOMINATION FORM

Nomination Deadline: July 11, 2026

Email completed form to: Malegionladyfastpitch@gmail.com



ABOUT THE ALL-STAR GAME

The All-Star Game, hosted by the Massachusetts American Legion Softball Committee about three-quarters of the way through the season, highlights players who demonstrate exceptional skill, dedication, and character. It serves as both a showcase of talent and a celebration of the league's core values of sportsmanship and teamwork.

ELIGIBILITY

All players in good standing are eligible to be nominated.

Players who have been ejected or suspended during the season are not eligible for selection.

TEAM NOMINATIONS

Each team may nominate up to **four (4)** players for consideration.

The number per team may vary based on total league size.

PLAYER INFORMATION

Player Name: _____

Team/ Post#: _____

Jersey#: ____ - ____

Age (as of Memorial Day 2026): ____ - ____

Primary Position(s):

- Pitcher Catcher Infield Outfield
- Utility

Batting: Right Left Switch

Throwing: Right Left

COACH INFORMATION

Coach Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS

Describe this player's performance, stats, or contributions during the 2026 season:

CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP

Explain how this player demonstrates sportsmanship, leadership, and the values of American Legion Softball:

Coach Signature: _____

Date: _____

Team Name: _____

Nomination #: of 4

The American Legion Detachment of Massachusetts 'Kelly A. McCue Memorial Softball Scholarship'

Section A – Letters of Recommendation and Testimony

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: (____) _____

Nomination Instructions

Any coach of an American legion sanctioned Softball team may nominate a player for consideration of this award. All information must be received no later than **July 22, 2026**.

You must be on a current rostered team affiliated with an American legion Softball Post.

Any students entering military service directly following high school graduation must submit documentation of active-duty entry date with application.

The scholarship shall be for the next school year only and limited to incoming college Freshmen. Excluding active military duty.

The MA American legion Softball Committee will select a player who best meets the qualifications as the American legion Softball Scholarship winner. The Detachment winner will receive a scholarship from The Sons of The American Legion, Department of MA for \$1,000.

Scholarship payments shall be made directly to the recipient. In the event of termination during school year, payments must be returned to The American Legion, Detachment of Massachusetts.

- 1) If your career goal is to be a Registered Nurse, check here (____)
- 2) Do you anticipate playing college softball? _____
- 3) Briefly describe any community service activities in which you have been involved in or membership held during your high school career.
- 4) List awards, honors and recognition received.
- 5) Attach one-page letter of recommendation from One of the following:
 - a. Legion coach or team manager
 - b. American Legion post commander or adjutant
 - c. Community leader, (i.e. teacher, minister, Scout leader, church leader, principal)
- 6) Submit a brief essay describing how Legion Softball prepared you for your future. *Extra points to essay that includes a 'Memorable Moment with a Veteran' that helped you grow as a person. A minimum 200 words.

Section B – Family Information

Father's name and occupation: _____

Veteran? ()

Mother's name and occupation: _____

()

Family's adjusted gross income: _____

(This scholarship is partially based upon need. Therefore, the adjusted gross income information is necessary.)

CERTIFICATION BY PLAYER

I certify to the accuracy of the foregoing facts. If selected, I will permit The American Legion to use my name, image and/or likeness for publicity.

SIGNATURE OF AMERICAN LEGION SOFTBALL PLAYER: _____

DATE: _____

Application and testimonial letters should be typed or print legibly on all information and must be postmarked no later than July 22 and mailed to Softball Scholarship Chairman: Jodie Pajak 80 Rhodes Ave., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or Email to malegionladyfastpitch@gmail.com

 AMERICAN
LEGION
MASSACHUSETTS



LADY'S
FASTPITCH

S O F T B A L L

