

April 2020

USA SOFTBALL OF MICHIGAN



of Michigan

Blues Across Michigan Newsletter

Umpire Spotlight:

Marty Branch

USA Softball of Michigan Blues Across Michigan wants to recognize multiple USA Softball Umpires from the USA Softball of Michigan program every month for their accomplishments on the field in the local area, state or national championships as well as how they have given back to the game off the field.

Being recognized does not always relate to the number of national or state championships an umpire has participated in. This honor encompasses an umpire's accomplishments, both on and off the field, in their local area and district in addition to their contributions at the state or national level.

These umpires represent what being a member of the USA Softball of Michigan umpire family is all about and bring attention to the widespread and diverse umpire community in our program across the state.

For April we are recognizing an individual from our program that has given a lot of time in helping out at the local level and excelling at the national level.

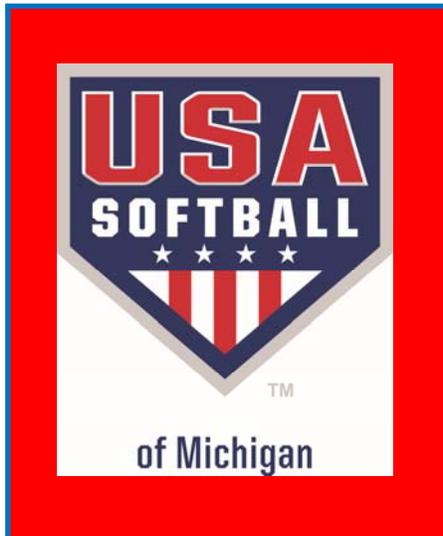


Marialana (Marty) Branch

District 5



Marty has been a USA Softball umpire in the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor area for 43 years. Wow! Talk about dedication and commitment. Marty is currently the District 5 Umpire in Chief, which serves the city of Ann Arbor. Recently, District 5 has been one of the top districts for umpire registrations.



Marty has been a regular at our state slow pitch qualifiers and state tournaments. She is willing to help wherever there is a need. She has also participated in four national tournaments, the most recent in Evansville, Indiana for the Men's E Rec Northern National. With these national tournaments, Marty was able to earn her National Indicator Fraternity Award from USA Softball in 2019.

Marty believes that no matter what, an umpire should always look professional, for all levels of play, and knowing the proper mechanics of the game is a must.

When she's not umpiring, she is a frequent visitor at the various parks, checking on her umpires, and helping them when asked. Most recently, one of her umpires, Bernie Nabozny, reached out to her for guidance. Bernie has taken the advice he's learned from her and has progressed very well. In fact, he has his first state at-large assignment this year. Word has gotten out, and there are others that are now seeking her help, and guidance, so that they, too, can progress and become the best umpire possible.

Marty is semi-retired from her full-time job and currently resides in Ypsilanti.

Congratulations Marty on being selected as our April Blues Across Michigan umpire!