



Middleton Baseball & Softball Commission

PO Box 620823
Middleton, WI 53562-0823

MBSC SUMMER HIGH SCHOOL/LEGION BASEBALL PROGRAM

Program Description

The Middleton Baseball and Softball Commission (MBSC) Summer High School Baseball Program is a competitive program for students ages 15-18 who live in our community. The goal of the program is to provide high school players and their families an opportunity to engage a competitive summer baseball experience with people they know, at a relatively low cost compared to typical travel team organizations. The program is affiliated with the Wisconsin American Legion (<https://wilegion.org/legion-baseball>). American Legion Baseball has a rich history in Wisconsin, dating back to its establishment in the 1920s as part of a nationwide effort to promote sportsmanship, teamwork, and community involvement among young athletes. Sponsored by the American Legion, a veterans' organization, the program is intended to provide structured competition for high school players while instilling values of citizenship and discipline. Beyond the competition, American Legion Baseball in Wisconsin emphasizes community engagement, with local Legion posts serving as sponsors and supporters. The Middleton Legion Baseball program is sponsored by Cross Plain Legion Post 245 (<http://www.americanlegioncp.org>), whose donations generously (currently \$3000/year) support several key aspects of the program including Wisconsin American Legion team registration fees and the purchase of player jerseys.

Please note that this is a competitive program which requires a major commitment by players (and their families). It is crucial that players commit to the MBSC Summer High School/Legion baseball team over other summer baseball options. At a practical level, players are expected to be at every scheduled weekday or tournament game unless they have communicated to the coaches in a timely and clear manner that they will not be present at a game.

Team Composition and Formation

The MBSC Summer High School/Legion baseball program will have at least one Senior (19U) level and one Junior level (16U) team each year. An additional 17U team may be formed if player numbers warrant. The Senior level team will normally be comprised of mostly juniors and sophomores from the previous high school season (ages 16-18). The Junior level team will usually be comprised of mostly freshmen from the previous high school season (ages 15-16). A 17U team, if active, will be comprised of juniors, sophomores, and (possibly) freshman from the previous high school season. Teams typically have 14-15 players on a roster, but this may vary depending on registration numbers. Team composition and the total number of teams may vary from year to year depending on registration numbers, player performance during the spring MHS season, and commitment level of players. In some instances, movement of players between teams may occur as deemed appropriate by the coaches and league director. Some graduated MHS seniors may be invited to participate in Senior level tournaments by the league director if more players are needed to fill out the team roster.

Players must have residence in the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District (MCPASD) in order to participate in this program. All MHS players who register for the summer high school/Legion program will be placed on one of the legion teams. Players who did not participate on an MHS spring baseball team may be allowed to join an MBSC summer team if the league director and MBSC coaches determine that there is a need for that player on a roster. The league director may invite graduated seniors (who still qualify for 19U) to participate on a Senior tournament team if there is a positional need for more players on the roster.



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Season

The season will begin in early to mid-June, immediately after the end of the MHS high school baseball season. Players may not play on a MBSC summer high school baseball team until their spring high school season has finished. Teams of all levels will play in 4-6 weekend tournaments. The tournaments will be a mixture of American Legion-sponsored and other non-Legion sponsored tournaments. Mixtures of players from all the teams will also compete in weekday games against other age-appropriate high school teams in the Madison metro area and other Legion teams in southern Wisconsin. The number and type of weekend tournaments will be decided by the league director with input from MBSC baseball coaches. The teams will also participate in the Wisconsin American Legion baseball regional qualifying tournaments at the end of the regular season (see below).

Registration

Registration fees for the MBSC Summer High School/Legion program will be set by the league director based on budget projections for the upcoming season. The total cost will be determined in large measure by the number of tournaments and the registration fees for those tournaments. Other major costs include Legion registration and insurance, a stipend for the Legion coaches, and umpire fees for weekday games. Expected expenditures for each team will be provided to interested parties upon request. If a player registers for the summer program and does not make a high school team in the spring, their registration fees will be reimbursed if a roster spot is not available on a summer team.

Coaching

The MBSC will in all cases attempt to hire non-parent coaches for all of the Legion baseball teams. Parents who wish to help coach a team may be added to coaching staffs if needed as decided by the coaches and league director.

American Legion Baseball

The MBSC Summer High School/Legion baseball teams will participate in the Wisconsin American Legion baseball regional qualifying tournament at the end of the season. These teams will be registered as American Legion baseball teams with the Wisconsin Legion program. Wisconsin State Legion tournaments are held at the 16U, 17U and 19U Division levels. The winner of the Legion regional tournament is eligible to play in the Wisconsin State Legion Baseball tournament that is held in late July or early August. In order to register as an American Legion team and participate in this tournament, the team must meet the requirements set forth by Wisconsin American Legion Baseball. The final decision to participate in the state Legion baseball tournament will be made each year by the league director with input from MBSC baseball coaches.

Player Liability Notice

In the event of damage to a hotel room or other lodging accommodation where a team stays overnight, parents/guardians of those who stayed in that room or living space are financially liable for any and all damages accrued during overnight stays. The parents or guardians of all players registered for overnight tournaments will need to sign a liability waiver agreeing to this language.

REVISED 12/14/24ER