



Charles E. Murray Post 186

House Rules

As Amended at Post General Membership Meetings
through September 2026

Prepared by
CHARLES E. MURRAY POST 186
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE
Brooksville, Florida

HOUSE RULES OF THE CHARLES E. MURRAY POST #186, INC, THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

As Amended at Post General Membership Meetings through September 2026.

PREAMBLE

These House Rules are established by Charles E. Murray American Legion Post 186 to govern the use, conduct, and management of the Post Home and its facilities. They are adopted under authority of the Post Constitution and Bylaws. They shall not conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Department of Florida or the National Constitution and Bylaws of The American Legion. A copy of these House Rules shall be made available to all members upon request and shall be posted in a visible location within the Post Home.

SECTION 1 AUTHORITY

1. These House Rules supplement the Post Constitution and Bylaws.
2. In all cases of conflict, the Post Constitution and Bylaws, Department Constitution and Bylaws, and National Constitution and Bylaws shall control.
3. Every member and guest is expected to be familiar with and abide by these House Rules. Ignorance of these rules will not be accepted as an excuse for violation.
4. **Definition – Bartender on Duty:** For purposes of these House Rules, the term “*bartender on duty*” refers to the Post employee or volunteer assigned to operate the canteen during their scheduled shift. The bartender on duty has on-site authority to enforce these House Rules on Post property during their scheduled shift, including service and conduct enforcement. Authority over canteen operations, including hours and closing procedures, is limited to the canteen, as described in Section 4. In the absence of a bartender, the House Committee or Commander may designate an authorized individual to act in this capacity.

SECTION 2 ADMISSION AND GUESTS

1. Access to the Post Home and canteen is limited to members in good standing of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, the American Legion Riders and their bona fide guests.
2. Guests must be signed in immediately upon arrival, remain with their sponsor while on Post property, and leave when their sponsor departs.
3. Sponsors shall sign guests in using the official Post guest log maintained in the entrance/foyer of the Post Home. The bartender on duty is responsible for ensuring the log is available and completed. The log shall be retained by the Adjutant for a minimum of ninety (90) days.
4. Each member may sponsor **no more than five (5) guests at any one time.**
5. The House Committee may waive the per-member guest limit for approved Post functions, special events, or rental events. Any waiver must be authorized in advance and in writing.
6. Members of other American Legion Posts, the Royal Canadian Legion, and the Royal British Legion shall be admitted upon presentation of a current membership card.
7. Sponsors are fully responsible for the conduct of their guests. Misconduct by a guest shall be treated as misconduct by the sponsoring member.
8. **Notwithstanding Section 12, violations of the guest policy (e.g., exceeding the guest limit, failure to sign in, or failure to supervise) shall result in:**
 - **First Offense:** Written warning, documented in the Post incident log and submitted to the Adjutant within forty-eight (48) hours.
 - **Second Offense:** Suspension of guest privileges for thirty (30) days.
 - **Third Offense:** Referral to the Executive Committee for further disciplinary action, which may include long-term suspension of guest privileges or referral under applicable Department procedures.
9. The Post reserves the right to refuse admission or remove any individual for cause, subject to review by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3

DRESS CODE

1. Shirts and footwear are always required. Bare feet, bare chests, or bare midriffs are not permitted.
2. Clothing must be clean, presentable, and free of excessive soil, odor, or damage.
3. The following attire is prohibited inside the Post Home and Post premises:
 - Clothing with obscene, profane, or offensive language or graphics.
 - Gang, club, or motorcycle insignia not affiliated with The American Legion Family.

- Swimwear, excessively revealing attire, or attire deemed inappropriate for a family-friendly environment.
 - **Attire or items promoting, opposing, or disparaging any candidate, political party, campaign, or partisan political position.**
 - **Clothing, insignia, or items that show disrespect toward the United States of America, the American Flag, or The American Legion.**
4. The bartender on duty shall enforce the dress code immediately. Individuals who fail to comply may be denied service and directed to leave the premises.
 5. Bartender determinations regarding dress code compliance are final for purposes of immediate enforcement. Any member who believes a determination was made in error may submit a written complaint to the House Committee within fourteen (14) days of the incident. Submission of a complaint does not excuse refusal to comply at the time of enforcement.

SECTION 4

CANTEEN OPERATIONS

1. Hours of operation shall be set by the House Committee and approved by the General Membership. Hours shall be posted at or near the canteen entrance and on the Post's official bulletin board. Any change to posted hours requires advance approval by the House Committee and must be communicated to the membership before taking effect.
2. Last call shall be made thirty (30) minutes prior to closing. All drinks must be consumed or discarded by closing time.
3. The canteen shall close during General Membership meetings and other official Post functions. The canteen may remain open or be reopened during such functions only upon advance written authorization by the Commander, with prior notice to the House Committee.
4. No outside alcoholic beverages or commercially purchased non-alcoholic beverages are permitted on Post property. Personal beverage containers, including mugs, tumblers, and flasks, are not permitted for use on Post property.
5. Only members in good standing may purchase alcoholic beverages directly from the bartender on duty. A guest's alcoholic beverages must be purchased by their sponsoring member, consistent with the requirements of the Post's private club liquor license.
6. Outside food is only permitted with prior approval from the House Committee.
7. **Closing Authority.** The **bartender on duty**, as defined in Section 1, is responsible for opening, operating, and closing the canteen during their scheduled shift in accordance with posted hours and any lawful direction of the Commander, House Committee, or

General Membership. Once the canteen has been closed, it shall not be reopened except as authorized under established Post procedures.

8. Any officer, member, or employee who interferes with the bartender on duty in the performance of these responsibilities may be subject to corrective action under Section 12.
9. Violations involving reopening or serving alcohol after official closing shall be documented and referred to the House Committee and Executive Committee for review.

SECTION 5 MINORS

1. Persons under twenty-one (21) years of age shall not purchase, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages on Post property.
2. Persons under eighteen (18) years of age are prohibited from entering or remaining in any gaming area of the Post. The “gaming area” includes all spaces where gaming activities are conducted or gaming devices are located, such as pull-tab dispensers, raffle ticket sales, bingo operations, and electronic or slot-style gaming machines.
3. Passage through a gaming area is permitted only when no alternative route exists and no gaming activity is in progress at the time of passage. Minors may not stop or linger in any gaming area under any circumstances.
4. Minors are not permitted in the canteen area of the Post, except during meals, family-friendly events, or during special functions approved in advance by the House Committee. During such events, minors must remain in designated seating areas appropriate for their age and under the direct supervision of a parent or legal guardian. At no time may minors be seated at or loiter near the bar.
5. Parents or guardians are fully responsible for the supervision, safety, and conduct of their children while on Post property.
6. Violations of this section shall result in the immediate removal of the minor from Post property and may result in suspension of the responsible member’s privileges, subject to review under Section 12.

SECTION 6 SMOKING AND VAPING

1. Smoking and vaping are prohibited inside the Post Home.
2. Smoking is permitted only in designated outdoor areas, in compliance with the law.

3. Cigarette butts and waste must be disposed of in designated containers.
4. Violations of this section shall be addressed as follows: First Offense: Verbal warning, documented in the Post incident log within forty-eight (48) hours. Second Offense: Written warning and suspension of canteen privileges for up to thirty (30) days. Third Offense: Referral to the Executive Committee for further disciplinary action, which may include long-term suspension of canteen privileges.

SECTION 7 ANIMALS

1. Animals are not permitted inside the Post Home, except for service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Emotional support animals, comfort animals, therapy animals, or pets do not qualify as service animals under this definition.
2. A service animal is defined as a dog (or in some cases, a miniature horse) that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. The task(s) performed must be directly related to the individual's disability.
3. Staff or volunteers **may only ask two questions** to confirm a service animal:
 - a. Is the animal required because of a disability?
 - b. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

No further documentation or proof may be requested.

4. Service animals must always remain under the control of their handler, either by leash or harness, or by voice or other effective control if a leash or harness would interfere with the service animal's work.
5. Service animals must be clean and free of conditions that would create a health or sanitation hazard on Post property. If a service animal poses an immediate health or sanitation concern, the handler shall be asked to address the issue before re-entry is permitted. This provision shall be applied consistently and without discrimination.
6. A service animal may be removed only if it is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it, or if it is not housebroken. In such cases, the handler must still be allowed to remain on Post property without the animal.
7. **Harassment, interference, or questioning of members, guests, or visitors with a service animal beyond what is permitted by law will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action.**

SECTION 8 FIREARMS AND WEAPONS

1. Firearms, explosives, or weapons of any kind are prohibited on Post property, except as authorized for official ceremonies, honor guards, or law enforcement officers on duty.
2. Any person found in possession of an unauthorized weapon on Post property shall be immediately removed from the premises. The matter shall be referred to the Executive Committee, which may impose suspension of canteen and Post privileges for a period not to exceed one (1) year. Law enforcement shall be contacted if circumstances warrant.

SECTION 9 CONDUCT

1. Members and guests must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on The American Legion.
2. The following behaviors are prohibited:
 - Profanity, abusive, or threatening language.
 - Harassment, intimidation, or discrimination of any kind.
 - Disorderly conduct, fighting, or provoking disturbances.
 - Public intoxication or excessive consumption of alcohol.
 - Gambling not authorized by law or Post policy.
 - **Conduct or displays that show disrespect toward the United States of America, the American Flag, or The American Legion.**
 - Disruptive conduct in the canteen, including conduct that interferes with canteen operations or involves the disclosure of confidential disciplinary or personnel matters in a public setting, is prohibited. This provision does not restrict members' rights to discuss Post business in a lawful and orderly manner consistent with American Legion governing procedures.
3. Any behavior that undermines the reputation or mission of The American Legion shall be grounds for corrective action.

SECTION 10 BARTENDER ON DUTY AUTHORITY

1. The **bartender on duty**, as defined in Section 1, has on-site authority to enforce these House Rules on Post property during their scheduled shift. This includes the canteen-specific responsibilities described in **Section 4 (Canteen Operations)**.
2. Authority includes:
 - Refusing service to any person who appears intoxicated, violates the dress code, engages in disorderly conduct, or disrespects staff or members.
 - Directing individuals to leave the premises when conduct warrants removal.
 - Contacting law enforcement if an individual refuses to comply.
3. **Documentation:** All serious incidents requiring refusal of service, removal, or law enforcement involvement shall be documented in writing within twenty-four (24) hours and submitted to the House Committee and Adjutant.
4. Members shall support the bartender on duty in enforcement. Disputes shall not be argued at the bar; they must be submitted in writing to the House Committee.
5. Failure to comply with the lawful directions of the bartender on duty in the enforcement of these House Rules is itself a violation of these House Rules.
6. **No officer, member, or employee shall interfere with, countermand, or attempt to assume the operational authority of the bartender on duty during their scheduled shift. Any such action shall be documented and referred for review under Section 12 and applicable Post governing procedures.**
7. If the bartender on duty is alleged to have committed a conduct violation, intoxication, or other misconduct, any member or officer with direct knowledge of the incident shall report the matter to the House Committee or Commander as soon as practicable. All reports shall be documented and reviewed in accordance with Section 12 and applicable Post governing procedures.

SECTION 11

DAMAGES

1. Members and guests are financially responsible for any damage caused to Post property, whether intentional or negligent.
2. The House Committee shall assess and provide written notice of any restitution owed to the responsible party within thirty (30) days of the incident. The assessment is subject to approval by the Executive Committee. If the responsible party disputes the assessment, they may request a hearing before the Executive Committee within fourteen (14) days of receiving written notice.
3. Failure to make restitution will result in the suspension of privileges until the amount is paid in full, and may lead to further disciplinary action.

SECTION 12

ENFORCEMENT AND DISCIPLINE

1. Violations of these House Rules may result in:
 - **First Offense:** Verbal warning. The bartender on duty or House Committee member administering the warning shall document it in the Post incident log and submit a written summary to the Adjutant within forty-eight (48) hours. A copy shall be retained in the member's record.
 - **Second Offense:** Written warning and suspension of canteen privileges for up to thirty (30) days.
 - **Third Offense:** Referral to the Executive Committee for further disciplinary action.
2. **Violation Period.** Violation history shall be tracked on a rolling twelve (12) month basis. The twelve-month period begins on the date of the first documented offense. Any subsequent violation occurring within twelve months of that date shall be treated as the next offense in the progression. If no additional violation occurs within twelve months of the most recent offense, the member's violation record under these House Rules resets. **This Violation Period applies to all offense progressions under these House Rules, including those specified in individual sections.**
3. The bartender on duty may immediately suspend service or require a member or guest to leave the premises for the remainder of the day.
4. All violations shall be documented in writing and submitted to the House Committee and Adjutant.
5. Longer suspensions or removals must be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee and, where necessary, the General Membership, in accordance with Department and National procedures.
6. **Appeals of Suspensions:** Any member disciplined under these House Rules shall have the right to appeal a suspension of privileges. Appeals must be submitted **in writing to the Executive Committee within fourteen (14) days** of the notice of suspension. The Executive Committee shall review the appeal at its next regular or special meeting, and its decision shall be final at the Post level, subject to any further rights of appeal under Department and National Constitutions and Bylaws.
7. If the Executive Committee fails to act on a timely appeal within sixty (60) days of receipt, the suspended member may escalate the matter under applicable Department of Florida procedures. The Post Adjutant shall notify the appealing member in writing of any scheduling delay within thirty (30) days of receiving the appeal.

SECTION 13

OVERSIGHT

1. The **House Committee** is responsible for enforcing these rules and investigating violations.
2. The **Constitution & Bylaws Committee** may review questions of interpretation or consistency with the Post Constitution and Bylaws, Department Constitution and Bylaws, and National Constitution and Bylaws when such questions are referred through proper Post channels.
3. The House Committee shall submit an annual written report to the General Membership summarizing significant violations, enforcement actions taken, any damages assessed and collected, and proposed amendments to these House Rules. The report shall be presented at the regular General Membership meeting in October of each year.
4. Amendments to these House Rules may be adopted by majority vote of the General Membership at a regular meeting.

ADOPTION

These House Rules were adopted by majority vote of the General Membership of Charles E. Murray American Legion Post 186 on the **3rd day of September 2026**, a quorum being present. Vote: Ayes 20 / Nays 1. They shall remain in effect until amended in accordance with Section 13.

// SIGNED //

Patrick Sharpe
Commander, Charles E. Murray Post 186

// SIGNED //

Jeffrey Rogers
Adjutant, Charles E Murray Post 186