



Charles E. Murray Post 186

House Rules

As Amended at Post General Membership Meetings
through October 2025

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 October 2025.

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.

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 assigned to operate the canteen during their scheduled shift. The bartender on duty is the final on-site authority for enforcing these House Rules, including closing times and conduct within the canteen. In the absence of a bartender, the House Committee or Commander may designate an authorized individual to act in this capacity, but no other officer or member may assume this authority without such designation.

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, 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. Each member may sponsor **no more than five (5) guests at any one time.**
4. 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.
5. Sponsors are fully responsible for the conduct of their guests. Misconduct by a guest shall be treated as misconduct by the sponsoring member.
6. **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.
 - **Second Offense:** Suspension of guest privileges for thirty (30) days.
 - **Third Offense:** Referral to the Executive Committee for further disciplinary action, up to and including long-term suspension of guest privileges.
7. The Post reserves the right to refuse admittance or remove any individual for cause, subject to review by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 3 DRESS CODE

1. Shirts and footwear are required at all times. 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:
 - Clothing with obscene, profane, or offensive language or graphics.
 - Gang, club, or motorcycle insignia not affiliated with The American Legion Family.
 - Tank tops, sleeveless undershirts, or strap-style tops for men.
 - Swimwear, excessively revealing attire, or attire deemed inappropriate for a family-friendly environment.
 - **Political attire of any kind, including campaign shirts, hats, pins, or materials supporting or opposing any candidate, party, or campaign.**
 - **Any clothing, insignia, or items that show disrespect toward the United States of America, the American Flag, or The American Legion.**
4. Bartenders shall enforce the dress code immediately. Individuals who fail to comply may be denied service and directed to leave the premises.
5. Determinations of appropriateness by bartenders shall be final at the time of enforcement.
6. Any dispute regarding enforcement may be submitted in writing to the House Committee, but refusal to comply at the time of the incident will not be tolerated.

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 in plain view.
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, unless otherwise directed by the Commander.
4. No outside alcoholic beverages are permitted on Post property.
5. Outside food is only permitted with prior approval from the House Committee.
6. **Closing Authority.** Only the **bartender on duty**, as defined in Section 1, has authority to open, operate, or close the canteen during their shift. Once the canteen has been closed, whether at regular time, by special order, or by holiday adjustment, it shall not be reopened without prior approval of both the House Committee and General Membership.
 - Any officer, member, or employee who attempts to override or countermand the bartender on duty in this regard shall be subject to disciplinary action under Section 12 of these House Rules.
 - Violations involving reopening or serving alcohol after official closing shall be treated as **major violations** and referred immediately to the Executive Committee for review.

SECTION 5 MINORS

2. Persons under twenty-one (21) years of age shall not purchase, possess, or consume alcoholic beverages on Post property.
3. Persons under eighteen (18) 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/slot-style gaming machines. Passage through entrances adjacent to gaming areas is permitted solely for entering or leaving the Post; minors may not stop or linger in those areas.
4. Minors are not permitted in the canteen area of the Post, except during meals, family events, or 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 by the Executive Committee.
7. Violations shall result in immediate removal of the minor and possible suspension of the responsible member's privileges.

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. Repeat violations may result in 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 remain under the control of their handler at all times, either by leash, harness, or voice command if such devices interfere with the service animal's work.
5. 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.

6. **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 unauthorized weapon will result in immediate removal and possible suspension of privileges.

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.
 - **Any action, verbal or physical, that disrespects the United States of America, the American Flag, or The American Legion.**
 - **Discussion of official Post business, including Constitution, Bylaws, elections, finances, or internal matters, in the canteen.**
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, is the final authority on-site for enforcing these House Rules during their scheduled shift. This includes all responsibilities and authority outlined 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 bartenders in enforcement. Disputes shall not be argued at the bar; they must be submitted in writing to the House Committee.
 5. Failure to respect the authority of the bartender on duty is itself a violation of these House Rules.
 6. **No officer or member shall override, countermand, or attempt to assume the authority of the bartender on duty. Any such action shall be deemed a major violation of these House Rules and shall result in immediate referral to the Executive Committee for disciplinary review, up to and including suspension of Post privileges or removal from office.**

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 costs of repair or replacement, subject to approval by the Executive Committee.
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 and documentation.
 - **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. Bartenders may immediately suspend service or require a member or guest to leave the premises for the remainder of the day.

3. All violations shall be documented in writing and submitted to the House Committee and Adjutant.
4. 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.
5. **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 further rights of appeal under Department and National Constitutions and Bylaws.

SECTION 13 OVERSIGHT

1. The **House Committee** is responsible for enforcing these rules and investigating violations.
2. The **Constitution & Bylaws Committee** shall act as a governance fail-safe if the House Committee fails to maintain or enforce its rules.
3. Amendments to these House Rules may be adopted by majority vote of the General Membership at a regular meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF REVIEW AND SUBMISSION

We, the undersigned members of the **Constitution & Bylaws Committee** of Charles E. Murray American Legion Post 186, do hereby certify that this document has been reviewed, approved by the Committee, and is hereby submitted to the General Membership for adoption on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

Jeffrey Rogers, Chairman
Post Adjutant

Keith Hines
Judge Advocate

Tom Moriarty
1st Vice Commander

Don St. Pierre
Past Post Commander

Gary Giambrone
Chaplain

ADOPTION

These House Rules were adopted by majority vote of the General Membership of Charles E. Murray American Legion Post 186 on the ____ day of _____, 2025. They shall remain in effect until amended in accordance with Section 13.

Commander: _____

Adjutant: _____