

## A New Year, Another Exciting Season to Come

As we welcome in 2026, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what we've accomplished and share our excitement for what's ahead as we look forward to our 42<sup>nd</sup> season.

2025 was a year of transition for Mat-Su Softball Association. We welcomed our new Executive Director Adam Imperato to the team, made repairs and improvements to the ballpark, strengthened our partnership with the City of Wasilla, and renewed our commitment to support our local youth fastpitch programs.

We hit the ground running early in the spring by hosting our annual coaches meeting at the ballpark in conjunction with our field clean-up and projects event. We had the best participation in years and were able to accomplish over a dozen small projects to get ready for opening day. We made significant investments to improve safety, repair fencing, replaced the bases on all fields, installed two new gates, painted and refurbished the bleachers, repaired the dugouts, stripped the excess grass off the infields, installed new signage, improved the security system and cut brush around the perimeter of the complex. A huge thank you to all the volunteers that helped make this event a huge success!

Our membership grew to nearly 800 players and managers representing 56 teams participating in Coed and Men's leagues. We hosted five tournaments at the ballpark last season including one girls youth fastpitch tournament. There were two MSSA team sponsors and one individual inducted to the USA Softball of Alaska Hall of Fame: Robinson Millwork, Newman's Hilltop and Greg DeArmond for meritorious service. Congratulations!

Through our partnership with the City of Wasilla they were able to construct new indoor bathrooms at the ballpark last fall. We have been working on this project for years and are very excited to have this facility available for our players and families.

There is currently a project being planned for 2026 to pave the parking lot at Bumpus and improve the flow of traffic within the complex. A huge thank you to the Wasilla City Council for their support and commitment to helping make Bumpus a great place for our ball players, families and the Alaska softball community.

I would also like to give a shout out to our Executive Director, Umpires, Field Maintenance, Office Staff and Volunteer Board Members that are working behind the scenes all year long to keep MSSA operating efficiently and helping to improve and expand our ballpark and facilities. Thank you for all your time and efforts during the previous year!

In November, unfortunately, a vehicle drove through the gate and on to Bumpus Field-2 causing quite a bit of damage spinning brodies on the infield and outfield grass. We have a

plan to make repairs in the spring, but this will likely take a lot of work and time for remediation. There has been an up-tick in vandalism over the past couple years.

Our sponsors make a significant financial impact for Mat-Su Softball helping to fund maintenance, repairs and improvements to the ballpark. I would like to thank and recognize the following business sponsors for the 2026 season: MVFCU, Darkstar Vehicle Wraps, Green Degree, Robinson Millwork, Spain Excavating, True North Recovery, Wolf Eye Center, Spenard Builders Supply and Black Flag Republic. We still have a few sponsorship opportunities available such as the ability to sponsor the name of our individual ballfields. Please visit our website for more information.

There are numerous volunteer opportunities to help-out at Mat-Su Softball with things such as carpentry, painting, brush cutting, spring projects team, ballpark improvements, ballpark expansion project, special events coordinator, marketing and advocating for the softball community. Please contact our office to volunteer, or for more information.

Our MSSA staff and board of directors are very excited about the coming season and look forward to getting back to playing ball this spring. Good luck to all!

Dan Fleckenstein  
President, Mat-Su Softball Association