

2021 North Carolina American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball
Rules, Policies, and Procedures



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2019 JUNIOR CHAMPSIONSHIP TEAM - POST 423 - RUTHERFORD COUNTY



2019 NC American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball Junior State Champions (Rutherford County Post 423) at the NCALLF Softball Department Championships in Shelby, NC.

2019 JUNIOR CHAMPSIONSHIP TEAM - POST 32 - CUMBERLAND COUNTY



2019 NC American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball Senior State Champions (Cumberland County Post 32) accepting their awards from the 2019 National Commander Brett P. Reistad and Department Adjutant Tierian "Randy" Cash at the 2019 American Legion Softball World Series Banquet in Shelby, NC.

PURPOSE & MISSION OF NC AMERICAN LEGION

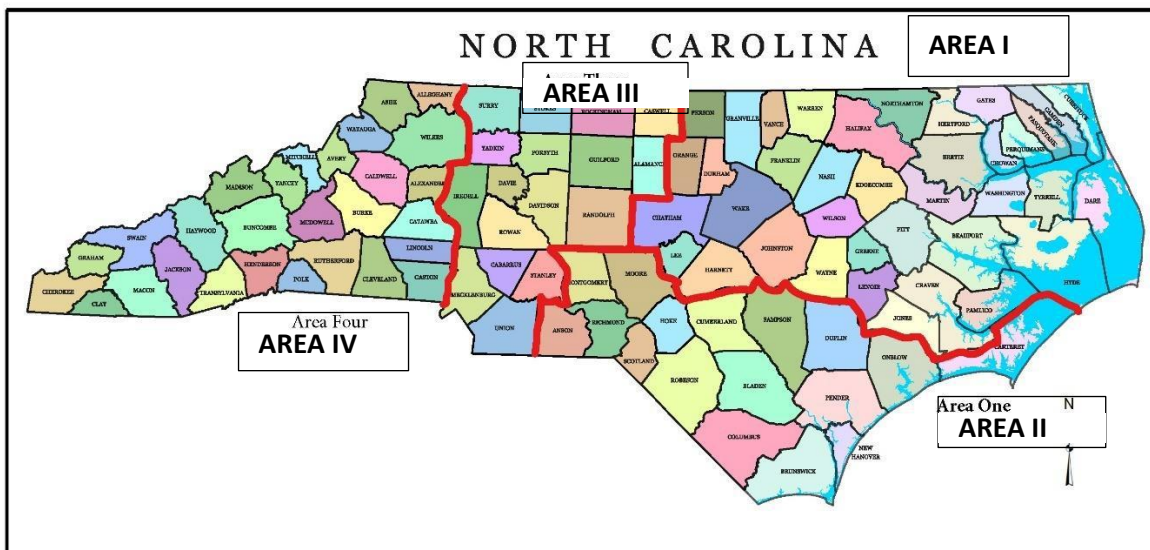
LADY FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

- 1) To inculcate in youth a better understanding of the American way of life and to promote the principles of 100 percent Americanism.
- 2) To instill in the nation's youth a sincere desire to develop within themselves a feeling of citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty, and team spirit.
- 3) To aid in the improvement and development of the physical fitness of our country's youth.
- 4) To strengthen and build the nation's future through our youth.
- 5) Build a sense of giving back - It is highly recommended that all NCALLF softball players, coaches, or teams perform at least one veteran community service act as a team, group or individual during the year.

Examples:

- 1) Volunteering at or visiting a V.A. Hospital or facility that houses Veterans.
- 2) Volunteering to help your Post with a project.
- 3) Sending a holiday card to veterans.
- 4) These are just a few examples of ways to let them know that you are thankful for their service and the opportunity their service has provided you to represent them, your Community, Family, and Country by playing this game that you love.

Fastpitch Softball Area Map



Key Dates to Remember

March 31 st	Establishment of player's legal domicile (parent's domicile) and school enrollment
April 15	File Plan A recruiting maps and with Department Headquarters
May 1	Deadline for previously registered teams to submit their \$300.00 registration fee, Registration Form, and Post Agreement Form, both signed by Post Adjutant. Send to: American Legion Department of NC Attention: NCALLF Softball PO Box 26657 Raleigh, NC 27611
May 3	Department purchases insurance for all teams. No team can play or practice before league insurance has been purchased.
May 4 th	First-day teams can practice or play as a sanctioned NCALLF.
May 14	Deadline for <u>new teams</u> to submit their \$500.00 Registration Fee, Registration Form, and Post Agreement Form, both signed by Post Adjutant. Send to: American Legion Department of NC Attention: NCALLF Softball PO Box 26657 Raleigh, NC 27611
May 24	All team rosters with a maximum of 22 players must be submitted by email to your Area Director and State Director using ALSB form #1 to legionladyfastpitch@gmail.com and drose@nclegion.org .
July 16	All Senior/Junior Tournament team rosters with a maximum of Seniors (18) and Junior (22) must be emailed to your Area Director and The State Director legionladyfastpitch@gmail.com and drose@nclegion.org to be eligible for the NCALLF Softball Playoffs and the Department Championship Tournament. No player can dual participate once the tournament play begins.
July 19	Senior/Junior Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball State Playoffs begin (Lower seed to higher seed)
July 23 rd – 25 th	Western Junior Legion State Championships (Location TBD)
July 30 – Aug. 1 st	Eastern Junior Legion State Championships (Location TBD)
August 2 – 4 th	Sr Legion State Championship, Post 82 in Shelby, NC will host. Games played at Gardner-Webb University Softball Complex

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RULE 1: JUNIOR & SENIOR NCALLF SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES, GAME POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- A. North Carolina American Legion Lady Fastpitch **Senior League** Softball play will be utilizing National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Rules.
- B. North Carolina American Legion Lady Fastpitch **Junior League** Softball play will be utilizing National Federation High School (NFHS) Rules.
- C. In this rulebook, there are rules, policies, and procedures in addition to the NCAA & NFHS Fastpitch Rulebook that is adopted and approved by the Department Executive Committee.
- D. **Ball Rule:** All Junior and Senior Home teams will provide two (2) Stamped NFHS Stamped NCAA Softballs at the beginning of the game and two(2) slightly used game balls for the remainder of the game.
 - Approved ball List:
 - a) Rawlings NCAA NC12L
 - b) Wilson NCAA Collegiate Series WTA9010BSST
 - c) Dudley NFHS "Thunder Heat" Fastpitch
 - d) Dudley NFHS WT12YFP "Thunder Heat"
 - e) Dudley NFHS 43-147 "Thunder Heat"
 - f) Diamond NFHS-Collegiate league 43-147 12RFP
 - g) Wilson NFHS Champion Series WTA9011BSST
 - h) Wilson NFHS Champion Series WTA9016BSST
- E. **Uniforms:** All players and coaches must wear an NCALLF Patch, sewn, sublimated, on either the left sleeve or left breast of the uniform and visible at all times. If a jacket is worn over the uniform jersey, the patch must be affixed to the jacket in the same manner. All uniforms must have the NCALLF Patch, U.S. Flag, and Sponsoring Legion Post # on their Jersey. All coaches must wear like shirts and pants.
- F. **Helmets:** Base Coaches are required to wear an official NOCSAE stamped coach's helmet when coaching at a base. Bat/Equipment Persons must wear an official NOCSAE stamped Fastpitch Softball helmet with earflaps and face mask when outside the dugout (Failure to adhere to this rule will result in that Bat Person being disqualified).
- G. **Pre-Game Warm-Ups:** Both Teams will be allowed to take 15 minutes' sideline infield/outfield 30 minutes before game time. This will be announced from the score table as not to create any delays or discrepancies. Both teams need to be in their dugouts 15 minutes (called from the score table) before game time for pre-game announcements/umpires plate meeting.
- H. **Games Per Day.** No team (Seniors and Juniors) shall play more than two (7) inning or three (5) inning games per day! Teams may finish a suspended game that does not

count toward the game per day limit. Playing days begin at 8 a.m. local time.

- I. **Senior Legion Game Lengths:** All Senior Legion teams will play one seven (7) inning game. Doubleheaders are allowed. Teams may play two (2) Five inning games (REGULAR SEASON ONLY) as long as both coaches agree to it, must be approved by the Area Director and The Department Fastpitch State Director.
- J. **Junior Legion Game Lengths:** All Junior Legion teams may play one seven (7) inning game. Doubleheaders are allowed. Teams may play two (2) Five inning games (REGULAR SEASON ONLY) as long as both coaches agree to it, must be approved by the Area Director and The Department Fastpitch State Director.
- K. **Run Rules.** It will apply in all games if the Home Team has had their at-bat if necessary. At the end of regulation time, all tied games will only use the international tiebreaker rule in regular-season league games.
 - a. 7 inning games – 10 runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings.
 - b. 5 inning games – 8 runs after 3 ½ or 4 innings.
- L. **Umpires:** Only umpires certified by an NFHS/NCHSAA (High School) or NCAA Umpires can be used to officiate any NCALLF game. All umpires must have an NCALLF patch on the left chest, left shoulder, or NCALLF umpire cap. Umpires will familiarize themselves with the NCAA/NFHS Rule Book and the NCALLF Policy and Rule Book.
- M. **Double Headers:** will be allowed and may be ordered through the entire season when necessary to complete scheduled or play-off games. It is a regulation game if terminated by the umpire due to rain or other causes which prevent further play, provided 5 or more innings have been played or the visiting team has completed five innings. Games may be moved to other parks/fields when necessary, with approval of the Area Director to complete schedules.
- N. **Suggested Game Times:** Senior and Junior seven-inning games not start before seven pm (7:00 p.m.) unless both teams agree to the time change. Five (5) inning doubleheaders six-thirty pm (6:30pm), unless both teams agree to the time change. The Home team will be responsible for notifying the umpire booking agent of any game time changes.
- O. **Game Curfew Time:** No Game will start after 11 p.m.

RULE 2: ELIGIBILITY

- A. Senior Team Players Age Eligibility:** Senior American Legion Softball competition is 2021 is open only to players born on or after January 1, 2002. Players born in 2001 are not eligible.
- a.** See age eligibility chart.
- B. Junior Team Player Age Eligibility:** Junior American Legion Softball competition is to any player born on or after January 1, 2004. Players ages 12 and under are not eligible.
- a.** See age eligibility chart.
- C. Team Managers must** obtain a birth records and current address for all players trying out for their softball team.
- a.** Any player to old or not grade eligible or out of recruiting area (without an approved form #76 on file) will cause all games in which said the player was on the roster to be forfeited.
 - b.** Coaches will need to provide proof of a player's eligibility if protested.

RULE 3: PLAYER RECRUITING

- A. Players Domicile.** A player's legal domicile shall be established before March 31 of the playing year.
- 1. A player's domicile shall be her parent's or permanent `court-appointed guardian's permanent and legal domicile as of March 31.
 - 2. If the parents are divorced, by court order, that player may play for a team of either parent's legal and permanent domicile provided
 - 3. The player must declare, in writing, the team of her choice and file that declaration with the Department Fastpitch State Director. The player's declaration shall be final and valid for the remainder of that playing year.
 - 4. If both parents are deceased or incapable of caring for and supervising the player during the season, the player's domicile will be determined by the domicile of the permanent legal guardian appointed by the courts having jurisdiction to make such an appointment.
 - 5. In situations not covered by this rule's provision, the softball committee will determine the player's legal domicile for her participation in the NCALLF Softball program. Such decisions shall be in writing and filed with Department Headquarters.

B. **New Team Formation.** If a new Legion team is formed that is closer to a player's parents' domicile, that player has a one-time option of playing with the team for which she last played or for the new team.

1. The Team Manager, prior to listing the player on Department Form #1, must receive written permission from the Department Chairman. This permission will only be good for one (1) year. The player must declare on form #77 the team she wishes to play for.

C. **Proof of Eligibility.** The NC American Legion will accept as proof of age and legal status:

1. Records of birth that are an original or a certified document by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health or other governmental agency authorized to certify birth documents (A state seal or appropriate government stamp shall be visible on the state-certified document).
 - a) Notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital records, baptismal records, school records or certificates are not acceptable proof of age and will disqualify a player and/or the team.
2. A state-issued driver's license that complies with the Federal Real ID Law, or a state-issued ID that is also in compliance with the Federal Real ID Law.
3. A U. S. government-issued passport.
4. A U. S. government-issued military ID card or dependent ID card.
5. In the case of a foreign birth, a potential player may present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, such as a NEXUS card. Official birth certificates issued by a foreign country are acceptable when accompanied by a letter with an English translation and must have an official raised seal.
6. A court-certified copy of that portion of permanent legal adoption papers showing the place and date of a player's birth shall be acceptable in cases involving adopted players.
7. Other documents may be reviewed and approved by the Department Judge Advocate.

RULE 3: PLAYER RECRUITING PLAN A

Plan A recruiting rules are based on zones and designed for large cities or areas where Plan B (base school recruiting) would be impractical. Plan A rules require a specific area to be drawn on a map. Secondary school enrollments (grades 10, 11, and 12) in that area are then added together and divided by 6,000 (enrollment cap) to determine the number of zones within an area. For example, if there are 13,257 students in a specific area, the number is divided by 6,000, equaling 2.20. This will require a minimum of three zones to be established within that area. Players, including emancipated players whose parents' domiciles are within a zone, must

play for the team in that zone unless properly waived to an adjacent zone. All zoning is subject to approval by the North Carolina Americanism Commission.

- A. The Department of North Carolina has adopted Player Recruiting Plan A.
 - a. A team may have multiple Junior teams within the senior team zone. The Junior teams will serve as feeder programs to their senior program. The Junior team players and coaches are under the management and authority of their Senior Program.
- B. **Zoning:** A team shall submit zoning of cities, counties, and/or school districts map.
 - 1. The department softball committee shall review and approve requests for such zoning. It shall be the responsibility of the department softball committee to forward zone maps to the Department office.
 - 2. A detailed map showing specific boundaries and the locations and enrollment figures of all high schools must accompany such requests.
 - 3. If a team's boundaries are changed, a new map and letter of explanation must be submitted for approval before **April 15, 2021**.

B. Player Recruiting. A post may select players whose parent's domicile was established in their zone on or before March 31, 2021, and players whose parents have moved and established a new domicile in their zone after **March 31, 2021**.

- 1. Players not selected to play with the team in their zone may play for the next nearest Plan A team provided they have a written transfer (Form #76) from the team manager in their zone.
 - a) The department softball chairman must approve all transfers before listing the player on North Carolina Form #1. The enrollment of both zones shall be combined, and the total enrollment shall not exceed 6,000.
- 2. Players in their final year of eligibility whose parents have established a new domicile shall have the option of playing for their old team or playing for the new team of their parent's new domicile. A written request must be filed with and approved by the department chairman before listing the player on North Carolina Form #1. This request must be accompanied by the parent's affidavit stating that the move is permanent and listing the previous and present domicile addresses.
- 3. When a new team is formed and new zones are established that change a player's eligibility, those previously registered players are permitted a one-time option of playing for the team of their old zone or playing for the team of their new zone.
 - a) Zones must be adjacent to each other.
 - b) Transfers are permitted when the combined enrollment of each zone is fewer than 6,000.
 - c) Transfers in the senior program shall be for a single season and shall expire December 31, 2021.

- d) A written request for a transfer must be filed with and approved by an area softball director before listing the player on North Carolina Form #1.2021

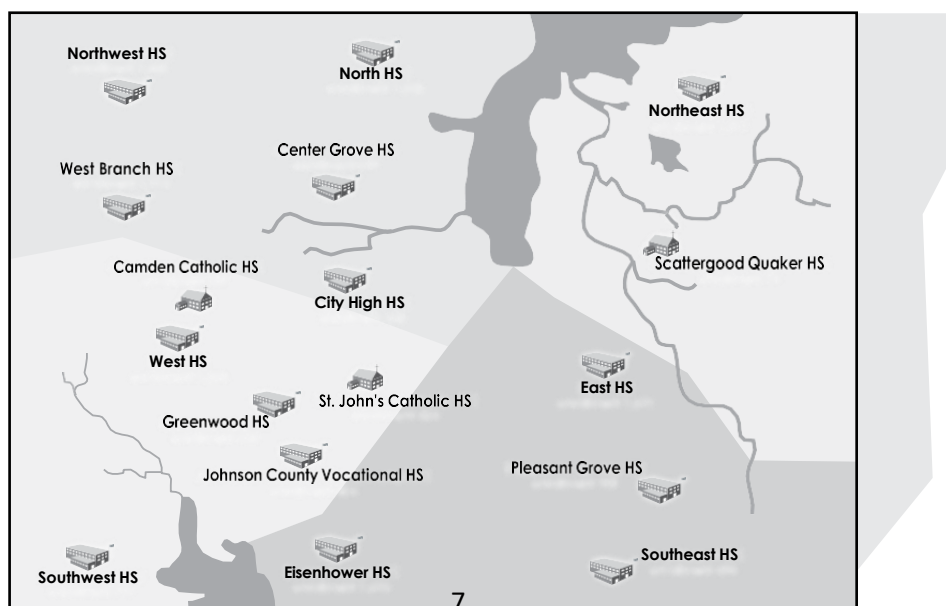
RULE 3 – POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Zoning of cities, counties, school districts, or even states is a common practice where outside influence such as cross-town busing and open school enrollment make Plan B recruiting rules difficult. The NC Americanism Commission suggests that teams wishing to establish Plan A zoning work with the other coaches in their area or league and department and district softball committees to establish fair and equal zones.

Establishing a Plan A zone is not tricky. Below is an example where four zones were formed. The coaches within this league proposed the boundaries or zones. The number of zones or teams was determined by adding all schools' enrollment, both private and public, in the zone and dividing the total enrollment by 6,000. The team managers then drew four boundaries. The North Carolina Softball Committee must review the map with agreed-to boundaries. This establishes the number of zones within the area. Under Plan A, teams DO NOT use a base school but are assigned a specific territory or area to recruit players. Territories or zones cannot overlap into another team's territory.

On the Plan A map, the four team managers agree to follow the existing high school boundaries as near as possible. It is not necessary to follow the high school boundary lines, but the practice is strongly recommended.

Teams may only recruit players whose parent's legal domicile is located within the zone. Transfers are permitted only if the combined zone enrollments do not exceed 6,000. The department softball committee and the North Carolina Americanism Commission must approve all new zoning or rezoning by April 15 of that year.



RULE 4: ADMINISTRATION - ORGANIZATION

Below are the procedures for beginning an NC American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball game. These procedures are non-negotiable!

- 1. Announce Players** – Everyone may remain seated during the player announcements!
- 2. Pa Announcer Will Ask Fans To Stand And Remain Standing.**
- 3. Prayer**
- 4.**
- 5. Department Fastpitch Softball Code Of Sportsmanship**

I will:

Keep the rules

Keep faith with my teammates

Keep myself fit

Keep a stout heart in defeat

Keep my pride under control in victory

Keep a sound soul, a clean mind, and a healthy body

6. National Anthem

- A.** All American Legion softball will be played under the Department Fastpitch Softball Sub-Committee's jurisdiction and the Americanism Commission's supervision.
- B. Disputes:** All Post Athletic Officers/Managers will deal with their Area Directors on matters pertaining to NCALLF Softball. Where the matter pertains to teams of two areas, the matter will be referred to the two directors of the two areas, and the State Director.
- C. Returning Teams:** Previous Years Teams shall register by May 1 2021 by completing the registration Previous Teams Form along with Post Agreement Form and mailing them together along with your team registration fee of (\$300.00) dollars to the address listed below:
Note: Any returning team that fails to register by May 1 shall be charged an additional \$200.00 to the Department.
- D. New Teams:** shall register by completing the registration New Teams Form along with Post Agreement Form and mailing them together along with your team registration fee of (\$500.00) dollars to the address listed below:

All Team Registration Forms Must Be Mailed To:

American Legion Dept. NC
ATTN: Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball
PO Box 26657
Raleigh, NC 27611

Note: A one-time fee of **\$200.00 dollars** will be taken from each New Teams registration fee, and placed into an account to be used if they forfeit a game. In the case of a forfeited game the Umpires Fees the team that forfeited shall replenish the \$200.00 before they are allowed to participate in their next scheduled game. This forfeit fee will be held from year until the team is no longer participating in the NCALLF Softball program.

E. Minimum Active Players: Any team that does not have nine players will forfeit its right to participate, and if it is post season play the Department Fastpitch State Director/Softball Sub-Committee may select a suitable replacement team.

F. Insurance: Insurance will be purchased by the NC Department from the Team Registration fee. No team may practice or play in any games until all fees and forms are received and approved by the NC American Legion Department. Until a team is insured, it is not an official NC American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball team.

G. Sponsorship: All NCALLF Softball Teams must be sponsored by an American Legion Post. All sponsorship applications must be signed by the Post Commander and attested by the Adjutant and be stamped with the seal of the sponsoring American Legion Post and post must be incorporated.

D. Authorized Personnel and Team Leadership: Teams are allowed a Manager, two coaches, a scorekeeper, trainer, and athletic officer in the dugout. These personnel must be listed on the team's SB Roster Form #1.

- a. All coaches must be a non-player at least 18 years old!
- b. All authorized dugout personnel must have completed and passed the following to have dugout access and direct contact/authority over players:
 1. Background Check (Must be completed online at <https://opportunities.avery.com/ALNCSoftball>); no other Background Checks will be accepted.
 2. Current safesport training certificate.
 3. A non-Legionnaire may serve as a coach.

H. First-Aid Kit: Each team must have a first-aid kit in the dugout at each game.

I. Rained Out/Suspended Games: Must be re-scheduled with 24 hours and the Area Director must be advised of the new date by the home team Manager or the Athletic Officer. If the two teams involved are unable to reach an agreement as to the time and place to play/resume the rained out game, the Area Director will name the time and

place within a 24-hour period

- J. Gate Fees:** Home Teams will operate a gate and concession stand. All regular season gate fees will not exceed \$5 for adults and \$3 for students (10 yrs. and older). These fees do not apply to play-off, tournament, championship, all-star games or special events.

RULE 5: PROTESTS AND PROCEDURES

A. Department Policies and Regulations. It is the duty of the Department Fastpitch Sub-Committee to formulate rules and regulations and submit them to Department Americanism Commission for review. The Americanism Commission will forward to the DEC for final approval.

B. All Post entering a NCALLF Softball Team will be obligated to all justifiable financial obligations or debts of their team for the previous season prior to being accepted into the league for play and/or continued participation!

- a. Any alleged violations to this rule shall be forwarded to the Internal Affairs Commission of the Department which shall review, investigate, evaluate and issue a final determination whether a violation occurred.
- b. If the Internal Affairs Commission of the Department determines there is a violation, then in that event, the individual team will be suspended from entering and/or play until all justified debts or obligations are paid in full. This rule shall be strictly enforced.

C. All NCALLF Softball Teams that maintain a checking account must also have a Legionnaire (Recommended Financial Officer) representative listed on such account and use the Post EIN # on the account.

D. Department Rulings. The Department Fastpitch Softball Sub-Committee operating under the authority of the Department Baseball Committee shall decide questions, disputes and protests within a program. The Department Fastpitch Sub-Committee shall have the authority to disqualify or suspend anyone violating a Department policy or Department rule. If necessary, questioned decisions can be submitted to the Department Americanism Commission for final approval

E. Protest Procedures are as follows: All protests in area play must be recorded with the home plate umpire before the last out of the game. The area director must be called at that time and written protest must be given to State Director the next day. The protest must be signed by the Athletic Officer or his duly authorized representative. Protests must be of a specific nature and must set forth definite proof. Any protest to the area commissioner must be accompanied by a \$100 check or money order made payable to the American Legion Department of North Carolina, or cash. Any appeal to the state committee must be accompanied by a \$200 check. Eligibility protest of players must bear written proof of ineligibility and must be filed with the area commissioner before the end of area play. Any applicable appeal from the department of NC baseball committee shall comply with the Department of NC constitution and by-laws. permission from the department commander. Protests involving umpire judgment will not be

considered. No telephone protest will be considered. Faxes and emails to be considered as a legal protest. The Umpire-In-Chief will file, immediately after a protested game, a written report with the Area Commissioner and State Baseball Chairman as to the circumstances involved. Protests involving umpire judgment will not be considered. Faxes and emails will be considered as a legal protest. The Umpire-In-Chief will file, immediately after a protested game, a written report with the Area Director and Department Fastpitch State Director as to the circumstances involved.

F. Written Proof. All protests of players eligibility must be specific, with written proof. All protests must indicate the specific rule that is alleged to have been violated. All protests shall be filed in accordance with established protest procedures.

G. Game Protest. Protests of official Fastpitch Softball rules during actual game play must be filed with the umpire-in-chief before the last out of the game.

RULE 6: TEAM – PLAYER CERTIFICATION FORMS

Team Entrance Notice

A. Co- Sponsorship: In the case where two or more Posts co-sponsor one team, all Posts must file with the Department Headquarters on the team Entrance Notice Forms, **SB Form #4 for new teams**, and **SB Form #3 for returning teams**.

B. Areas and Divisions: As soon as the Department Fastpitch Softball Sub-Committee can determine accurately the Posts that are entering teams, it will divide the State into areas and assign an Area Commissioner to each area.

C. Team Records: Each individual team will be obligated to see that their records and forms are in order and submitted to the Area Directors at the prescribed time. All forms will be available at this website: nclegion.org

D. Department SB Form #2. All players, their parents or court-approved legal guardians must complete Player Agreement and Parent's **Consent SB Form #2 and the form must be notarized**. The team manager will retain the original **SB Form #2** and have it available at all games. A copy must be emailed to your Area Director and Department Fastpitch State Director legionladyfastpitch@gmail.com. Any team or player who fails to complete and file **SB Form #2** shall be disqualified from any further play.

E. Players Per Team. No NC ALLFP Softball team may have more than 22 players. The **SB Form #1 (Roster)** must be completed and email to legionladyfastpitch@gmail.com. **SB Form #1 (Roster)** must also be emailed to ; the area director, who will certify teams/players and forward these rosters to the Department Headquarters to be eligible for regular and post-season competition. Teams will be allowed to add /drop throughout the regular season to their rosters until

F. The final Post season tournament rosters are submitted. The Roster Form #1 must be

completely filled out to include each player's full name and the address of their parents' permanent legal domicile, High School attended and enrollment (10th-12th grade only) as of March 31 of the playing year.

- G. Post Season Play-off/Tournament/Championship Rosters.** Once the regular season has been completed, the team's tournament roster must be submitted to their Area Directors and Department Fastpitch State Director at legionladyfastpitch@gmail.com, **NLT JULY 16**. The tournament roster must be reduced to the maximum (Seniors 18 and Juniors 22) players. Once the Tournament roster is submitted, it is locked and can't be adjusted.

Note: Senior Post Season Rosters will only be allowed 18 players, 1 Manager, 2 coaches, 1 scorekeeper and 1 Team Mom for Post Season Play!

1. Dual roster is permitted for those teams with affiliated senior and junior teams. Junior players may dual roster and play on the senior and junior teams during the season. Dual rostered players will count towards the 22 allowed on a roster. However, senior not eligible to play juniors may not dual play on a junior team. The dual roster player must appear on both senior and junior Department Form #1 to be eligible to dual play on both senior and junior teams for the regular season. Players that dual participate can only be listed on the roster of the team they will participate with when the play-offs start.
2. In cases of death, a player may be replaced on Department Form #1.
3. A player may be replaced on the roster, if that player is placed on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces following submission of the certified Department Form #1.

RULE 7: SPORTSMANSHIP – CONDUCT - EJECTIONS
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- A. Conduct.** Managers, coaches or players who in the opinion of the Department Fastpitch State Director or his Area Directors, conduct themselves in an un-sportsman like manner, **that would discredit the program**, may be **removed** by the Department Fastpitch Softball Sub-Committee. Any applicable appeal from the Department of NC Softball Committee shall comply with the Department of NC Constitution and Bylaws. Each team must have a minimum of 2 coaches.
- B. Heckling.** No player, coach, manager, or any other party associated with the Softball team shall abuse, heckle or make uncomplimentary remarks to opposing players or team officials. An individual violating this rule shall be ejected immediately by the umpire must leave the facility. If a player is ejected from the game the player will be restricted to the dugout or placed in the custody of their parent or legal guardian if in attendance.
- C. Sportsmanship.** Any player, coach, manager or other party accompanying a team can be ejected from the game and must leave the facility. If a player is removed from the game, the player will be restricted to the dugout or placed in the custody of their parent or legal guardian if in attendance. If the following infractions are committed.

1. Use profane language.
 2. Throw bats or other equipment.
 3. Make unnecessary or obscene gestures to umpires, fans, or opposing players. (Only team managers or coaches may ask for clarification of a rule; they may never argue)!
 4. Commit unnecessary roughness on the playing field
 5. Any Coaches, Athletic Officers, Bat Boys, Players, etc. who before, during or after a game/function utter derogatory remarks which would indicate the un-professionalism of an Umpire, Area Director, Department Fastpitch State Director or in reference to the North Carolina American Legion Fastpitch Softball League (NCALLF) will be subject to suspension.
- D.** Any coach, manager, or adult associated with the American Legion softball team ejected by the umpire must be out of sight and sound of the playing field. All ejections are automatically a one (1) game suspension. Any person ejected from a ball game by an umpire will automatically be reported by the umpire and the athletic officer or the team manager of that team involved in writing. The umpire and team manager must describe the events that led to the suspension/ejection within 24 hours, to the Area Director and the State Director for disciplinary review and disposition of disciplinary action before the next scheduled game. The decision of the State Director will be final.
- E. Reinstatement.** Any player, coach, or manager suspended/ejection from a game in tournament play by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct is suspended for the remainder of the tournament unless reinstated by the Tournament Director. The Directors decision is final.
- F. Ejection from the Ballpark.** Any coach, manager ejected by an umpire must leave the ballpark. Players under 18 will be restricted to the dugout under the coach's supervision unless the parent or legal guardian is present. The ejected player will be released to the custody of the parent or legal guardian present.
- G. Tobacco** use is prohibited at all NCALLF Softball Functions and will be strictly enforced. Electronic Smoking Devices are considered a tobacco product. Failure to follow this rule could lead to ejection from the or facility.

PAST NCALL DEPARTMENT CHAMPIONS

JUNIORS

2017 – No Junior Championship

2018 – Cleveland Count Post 82 (Un-Sanctioned)

2019 – Rutherford County Post 423 (Sanctioned)

2020 – Cancelled (COVID-19 PANDEMIC)

SENIORS

2017 – Concord Post 51 (Un Sanctioned)

2018 – Concord Post 51 (Sanctioned)

2019 – Cumberland County post 32
(Sanctioned)

2020 – Cancelled (COVID-19 PANDEMIC)

DEPARTMENT OF NC AMERICAN LEGION LADY FASTPITCH SOFTBALL HISTORY

In the Fall of 2016, Army veteran and Legionnaire Mike Hasson and son Wesley Hasson (SAL Member) made a proposal to the NC American Legion Baseball requesting that the American Legion sanction a program for women's Fastpitch Softball.

Through the leadership of Department Judge Advocate Mr. Gaither Keener and Mr. Terry Boyles, the Department Baseball Chairman, the Softball Program was given the green light for a trial run in 2017. Hasson, along with son Wesley, used their network and resources in softball to form a group of coaches who established a League for a trial run in the summer of 2017! The league created eleven Senior Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball Teams. These teams competed in a regular season and play-offs, where its first state champion (Concord Post 51) was crowned. The first season was a success! At the Department 2017 Fall Conference, Hasson and son re-visited the Baseball Committee meeting and presented a PowerPoint program showcasing the program's success that summer. This led to a recommendation from the Department Judge Advocate Gaither Keener to the Americanism Commission Chairman, David Shore. The Commission approved the motion and forwarded it to the Department Executive Commission (DEC), who voted to sanction the program. HISTORY was made, and American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball was created in North Carolina! The DEC directed the program to be governed under the Americanism Commission's authority and be overseen by the Department Baseball Committee. The Department Commander, Mrs. Carroll Barker, directed that the Department Softball Committee add two permanent Committee Members to serve as Fastpitch Softball Representatives to manage and develop the program.

That fall, the NCALLF Softball program continued to make history the first and only officially sanctioned Fastpitch Softball Program in American Legion. Since 2017 the NCALLF Softball Program has experienced growth, community support, and media coverage both Statewide and even with National American Legion. In the summer of 2018, the program grew to 18 Senior Legion and 6 Junior Legion Teams. The program leaders were invited to the American Legion World Series in Shelby to showcase the program in an exhibition (All-Star) game. The players and coaches were recognized on the field before the ALWS Championship Game.

In 2019 the league grew to 36 Senior and 24 Junior Legion Teams. In the spring of 2020, league officials continued to receive interest from Coaches and Post, intending to start a team in the NCALLF Softball program. In 2020, it was anticipated that interest in the league growth could easily reach 80+ teams! Unfortunately, (NCALLF) Softball program would be struck by the Covid-19 pandemic and have to cancel the 2020 season.

With the popularity and continued interest in the NCALLF softball, we expect this Historical Fastpitch Softball Program to come back bigger and stronger in the 2021 season! Along with NC's interest, we have been assisting South Carolina and Idaho Departments in starting programs in 2021. The softball committee has been contacted by several other States (Washington State, Michigan, California, Virginia, Mississippi, Illinois, Delaware, New York, Tennessee, and Minnesota). With continued support and participation, NCALLF Softball will continue to lead the way, setting the standard for Departments as they consider starting their own ALLF Softball Program. The Department challenges its members to continue spreading the word about the opportunities the NCALLF Softball program offers our youth as we commit to teaching our youth the importance of commitment, honor, and values. We also continue to cultivate a partnership through connecting American Legion, Youth and Communities together, bringing honor to our veterans. The American Legion and the NCALLF Softball program continue to make history.