



**2022 North Carolina American Legion Lady
Fastpitch Softball Rules, Policies, and Procedures**

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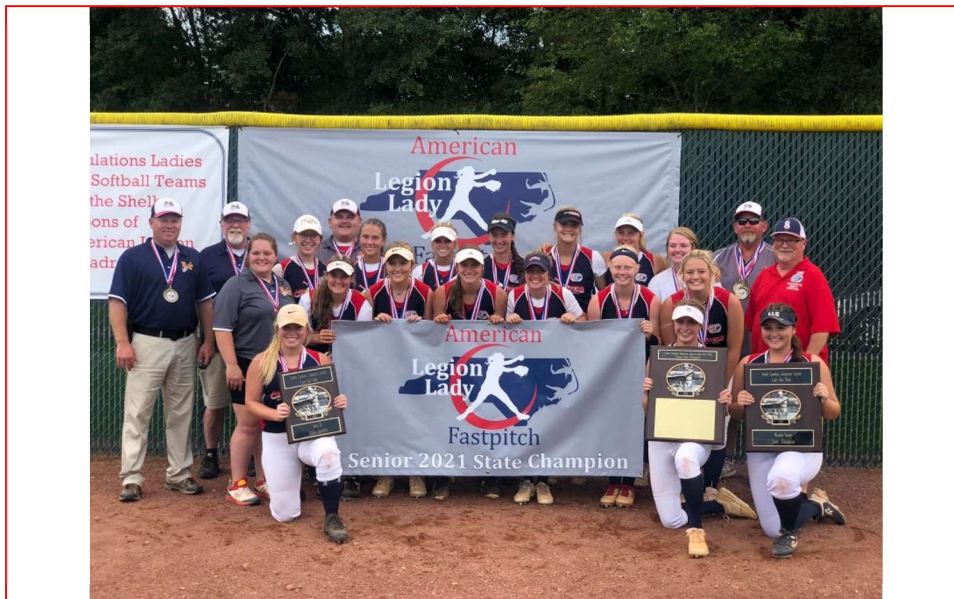
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2021 JUNIOR STATE CHAMPION - POST 112 - ROWAN COUNTY



2021 NC American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball Junior State Champion (Rowan County Post 112) at the NCALLF Junior State Tournament at Big League Camp in Marion, NC.

2021 SENIOR STATE CHAMPION - POST 8 - DAVIDSON COUNTY



2021 NC American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball Senior State Champion (Davidson County Post 8) at the NCALLF Senior State Tournament at Crest High School in Shelby, NC

**PURPOSE & MISSION OF
NORTH CAROLINA AMERICAN LEGION
LADY FASTPITCH SOFTBALL**

- A. To inculcate in youth a better understanding of the American way of life and to promote the principles of 100 percent Americanism.
- B. To instill in the nation's youth a sincere desire to develop within themselves a feeling of citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty, and team spirit.
- C. To aid in the improvement and development of the physical fitness of our country's youth.
- D. To strengthen and build the nation's future through our youth.
- E. 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 31st Establishment of player's legal domicile (parent's domicile) and school enrollment
- April 8th Teams must file Plan A Maps and Plan B Base Schools with Area Commissioners and Area Directors.
- April 15TH Department purchases insurance for all teams. No team can play or practice before league insurance has been purchased.
- April 16th First-day New teams can practice or play as a sanctioned NCALLF.
- May 2nd Deadline for **Returning Teams** to submit their **\$450.00** 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 13th Deadline for **New Teams** to submit their **\$550.00** 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 23rd All team rosters with a maximum of 22 players must be submitted by email to your Area Commissioner using ALSB form #1.
- July 15th All Senior/Junior Tournament team rosters with a maximum of Seniors (18) and Juniors (22) must be emailed to your Area Commissioner and The Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman 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 18th Senior/Junior Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball State Playoffs begin (Lower seed to higher seed)
- July 29th – 31st Junior Legion State Championships, Post 56/Big League Camp Inc., Big League Camp, Marion, NC
- August 1st – 3rd Senior Legion State Championship Post 56/Big League Camp Inc., Big League Camp, Marion, NC

NCALLF Softball 2022 Special Committee

Senior Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball Area Commissioners

State Commissioner (Department State Chairman)

Mike Hasson,
Post 21 Morganton, NC (Burke County) (Post 21 Fastpitch AD)
111 Fox Street
Morganton, NC 28655
Cell (828)443-9836
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Senior Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball Area Commissioners

Area I Commissioner

Rora Kellis
Post 296 Vass, NC (Moore County)
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Vass, NC 28394-9112
(910) 603-1318
rmkellis@live.com.

Area II Commissioner (Vice Chairman)

Walker Biggs
Post 545 (Biggs-Kramer) Wilmington, NC (New Hanover County)
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Castle Hayne, NC 28429
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1208 Redwood Ct.
Kannapolis, NC 28081
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Junior Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball Area Directors

Area I Junior Director

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Squadron 116 Fuquay Varina, NC (Wake County)
4909 Timber Oaks Dr.
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southwakefastpitch@gmail.com

Area I Junior/Senior Fastpitch Softball Consultant

Julie Kruse-John
Unit 187 American Legion Ladies Auxiliary (Wake County)
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Wake Forest, NC 27587
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nwfungo@gmail.com

Area II Junior Director

Vacant

Area III Junior Director

Ric Cook
Post 8 Lexington, NC (Davidson County)
206 Wilfred Ave.
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Area IV Junior Director/Collegiate Program Director

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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.** North Carolina Partners with North Carolina USA Softball (The National/ International governing body of Fastpitch Softball)
- E. Ball Rule:** All Junior and Senior Home teams will provide two (2) Stamped NFHS / NCAA Softballs at the beginning of the game and two (2) slightly used game balls for the remainder of the game.

Approved Ball List for Seniors:

1. Rawlings NCAA NC12L
2. NCAA Collegiate Series WTA9010BSST
3. Diamond NFHS Collegiate League 43-147 12RFP

Approved Ball List for Juniors:

4. Wilson NFHS Champion Series WTA9011BSST
5. Wilson NFHS Champion Series WTA9016BSST
6. Dudley NFHS "Thunder Heat" Fastpitch
7. Dudley NFHS WT12YFP "Thunder Heat"
8. Dudley NFHS 43-147 "Thunder Heat"

- F. 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 Sponsoring Legion Post # on their Jersey. and a number on the back of the jersey in accordance with NFHS regulations (rule 3-2). All coaches must wear slacks, shorts or other leg coverings in team colors or colors of khaki, black, white or gray. Cut-offs or any type of jeans are prohibited.
- G. Helmets:** Senior and Junior 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).

- H. 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.
- I. Games Per Day.** No team (Seniors and Juniors) shall play more than two (7) innings or three (5) inning games per day (Regular Season Only)! 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.
- J. Junior / Senior Legion Game Lengths:** All Junior and Senior 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 Commissioner and The Department Fastpitch Softball 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.
1. 7 inning games – 10 runs after 4 ½ or 5 innings.
 2. 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. All umpires must attend American Legion Umpire Training as required by the NCALLF Softball Committee and State UIC.
- 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 3 ½ or 4 innings for 5 inning games and 4 ½ or 5 innings for 7 inning games have been completed. 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 (6:30 p.m.), 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. Student Enrollment Confirmation Source:** [NCES.ED.GOV](https://nces.ed.gov) (National Center for Educational Statistics) <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolsearch/> will be the official site used to calculate the student enrollment cap of 7500 for each NCALLF Softball team (10th – 12th Grades Only).
- P. Game Curfew Time:** No Game will start after 10 p.m. (Regular Season Only)!

Q. Game-Day Cancellations: May be considered as Forfeits. Two (2) unexcused game-day cancellations in the same year will disqualify a team from post-season play, this is at the discretion of the Area Commissioner and the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman. Valid excuses are limited to Weather, **DOCUMENTED TEAM-WIDE** illness that result in having fewer than 9 rostered players to start the game with, or as approved by the Area Commissioner.

RULE 2: ELIGIBILITY

- A. Senior Team Players Age Eligibility:** Senior American Legion Softball competition in 2022 is open only to players born on or after January 1, 2003. Players born in 2002 are not eligible. Senior Players minimum eligibility, cannot be younger than a rising 9th grader.

- B. Junior Team Player Age Eligibility:** Junior American Legion Softball competition is open to any player born on or after January 1, 2005. Any Player that is 17 years old must first tryout and be cut from the Senior Program, once released the coach must complete and sign the player release form, and the player is eligible to play for the program's junior team and is not allowed to dual play. Players born in 2004 are not eligible. Players ages 12 and under are not eligible.

- C. Team Managers must** obtain a birth record and current address for all players trying out for their softball team.
 - 1. Any player too 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.
 - 2. Coaches will need to provide proof of a player's eligibility if protested.

PLAYER RECRUITING ELIGIBILITY

- 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 parents 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 parents legal or permanent domicile provided
 - 3. The player must declare, in writing, the team of his / her choice and file that declaration with the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman. 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 7500 (enrollment cap) to determine the number of zones within an area. For example, if there are 16,527 students in a specific area, the number is divided by 7,500, 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.

The Department of North Carolina has adopted Player Recruiting Plan A.

1. A zone may have multiple Junior teams within the senior team zone. The Junior teams will serve as feeder programs to their senior program where a Senior Program exist. The Junior team players and coaches are under the management and authority of their Senior Program and will follow the boundaries established by the Senior program.
2. Junior teams that are established by High School within a Senior Program will be limited to player recruiting from the schools that feed the new or existing Junior team or may recruit from boundaries agreed to by the Senior Program Coach and all Junior program coaches involved within the Senior zone.

A. Zoning: A team shall submit zoning of cities, counties, and/or school districts map.

1. The Department Fastpitch Softball Committee shall review and approve requests for such zoning. It shall be the responsibility of the Department Fastpitch 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 8, 2022**.

B. Player Recruiting. A post may select players whose parent's domicile was established in their zone on or before March 31, 2022, and players whose parents have moved and established a new domicile in their zone after **March 31, 2022**.

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 Fastpitch 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 7,500.
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 7,500.
 - c) Transfers in the senior program shall be for a single season and shall expire December 31, 2022.
 - d) A written request for a transfer must be filed with and approved by the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman before listing the player on North Carolina Form #1.

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 Fastpitch Softball Committee to establish fair and equal zones.

Establishing a Plan A zone is not tricky. Below is an example where four zones that 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 7,500. The team managers then drew four boundaries. The Department Fastpitch 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 (teams cannot share a zone).

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 7,500. The Department Fastpitch Softball Committee and the North Carolina Americanism Commission must approve all new zoning or rezoning by April 15 of that year.

RULE 4: PLAYER RECRUITING PLAN B

Plan B base school recruiting allows teams to select players who attend nearby high schools. High schools are combined to form a recruiting area. A player whose parent's domicile is nearest a base school is eligible to try out and play for the team if the player meets all other eligibility requirements and the combined

enrollment of the recruiting area (combination of schools) does not exceed 7,500 students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

Note: Plan B recruiting rules are more flexible but more complex than the Plan A (zoning) rules. Study these rules carefully.

A. Base school. All teams must have a base school.

1. New teams must request and receive approval for a base school from the Department Fastpitch Softball Committee at the time the team registers with the department Fastpitch Softball committee.
2. Existing teams may request to change their base school. This request must be in writing and approved by the Department Fastpitch Softball Committee prior to submitting Department Form #1.
3. If two or more teams are sponsored by the same NC American Legion post or outside sponsor, the Department Fastpitch Softball Committee will assign the base school for each team.

B. Player Recruiting. Teams may select players who are enrolled on March 31, 2022 in any public, private, technical, vocational, regional, or preparatory high school, or any combination.

1. Existing teams may request a new combination of schools from the Department Fastpitch Softball Committee; however, approval must be given prior to listing any player on Department Form #1.
2. Teams may not recruit a player(s) from another team's base school.
3. Senior NC American Legion player(s) who qualify under Rule 4.D, combined total enrollment of the schools, cannot exceed 7,500 for 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

Clarification

Teams may select non-base school players whose parents' or guardians' domiciles are nearest the team's base school. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps. Teams may select player(s) who qualify under Rule 4.C.

4. Enrollment is determined using the number of 10th, 11th and 12th grade students officially recorded on March 31, of the present year, by the state board of education or other state agency that has jurisdiction over school enrollment. Every student registered shall be counted, including special education students, physically challenged students, bilingual students, and students older than 19.
5. When single high school enrollment exceeds 7,500 students, the team that has such a school as its base school shall not recruit from any other school.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

The enrollment of the high school the player attends will be counted. Emancipated players such as college or university students or players no longer in high school must play for the team nearest their parent's or guardian's domicile or for the team they last played. Teams shall count the enrollment of the last high school attended. The school enrollment for middle schools, junior high schools.

C. Option Rule. Players attending a high school (including freshmen) outside a team's recruiting area, may have the option of playing for the team nearest the high school the player attends or playing for the team nearest the parent's legal domicile. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.

1. The player must complete Department Declaration Form #77, on which the player in writing the team for which he wishes to play.
2. Such election shall be for the 2022 season and shall expire on Dec. 31, 2022.
3. The team manager must forward Form #77 to the department Fastpitch Softball Chairman prior to listing the player on Department Form #1.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

The enrollment of the high school the player attends will be counted. Emancipated players and players enrolled in college must play for the team for which they played during the previous season. College players are not eligible for a transfer or option (Rule 4.C).

D. Transfer Rule. A player released from a team must obtain permission on Department Transfer Form #76 from that team's manager to play for the team next closest to his parent's domicile.

1. To determine the nearest team from among several, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.
2. The player must provide signed Transfer Form #76 to the new team manager, which must be forwarded to the authorized by the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman for approval, prior to listing the player on Form #1. All transfers shall be for one year. All transfers shall expire on Dec. 31, 2022.
4. Players who graduated from high school in 2021 are not eligible to be transferred.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

A player who was enrolled in high school on March 31 who tries out for and fails to make the nearest team can request a transfer to the second closest team to their parent's domicile. If cut again, that player may try out for the third closest team until such time as the player is able to play on a team. The enrollment of the high school a player attends on March 31 shall be counted. Transfers shall expire on Dec. 31, 2022.

E. School Enrollment Expansion. Players who are unable to complete eligibility because enrollment expansion eliminated their schools from previously approved combinations, may continue on the teams for which they last played, provided no new players are recruited from their school.

1. Written permission for a player to continue under these circumstances must be obtained from the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman prior to listing the player on Form # 1.
2. Teams cannot form different combinations of schools.

F. Change of Address. Players who realize a permanent change in their parent's or guardian's domicile shall be eligible to compete for the team nearest their parent's new domicile.

1. A notarized statement from the player's parents must list previous address and new permanent address.
2. Written permission must be obtained from the authorized Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman in which the new team is located, prior to listing player on Department Form #1.

3. If released, a player may be transferred to the next nearest team as provided for in Rule 4.D (transfer rule).
4. The enrollment of their previous high school as of March 31, 2022, shall be counted.

G. Final Year of Eligibility. Senior Legion Fastpitch Softball players who have one years of eligibility remaining, whose parents move out of the team's recruiting area, shall have an option of playing for the team nearest their parent's new domicile or returning to their former team.

1. The enrollment of the high school the player attends on March 31, 2022, shall be counted.
2. Written permission to play for their previous team must be obtained from the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman prior to listing the player on Department Form #1.

H. Homeschooled Players. A player who is homeschooled may compete for the team nearest their parent's or guardian's legal domicile. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.

1. Written permission for such competition must be obtained from the authorized Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman prior to listing the player on Department Form #1.
2. Enrollment figures such as a player shall be that of high school boundary of his parent's domicile.

I. New Team Formation. In the event 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 he last played or for the new team.

1. The department Fastpitch Softball chairman, prior to listing the player on Department Form #1, must grant written permission.
2. The enrollment shall be added to the team's total enrollment.

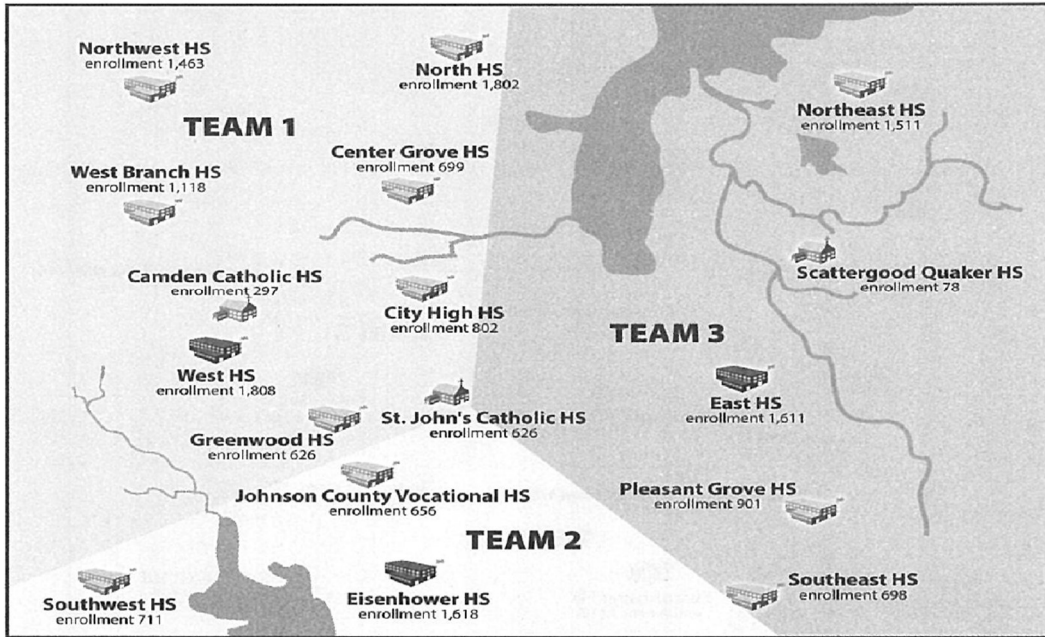
RULE 4 – POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Selecting a base school is the starting point for recruiting additional players if the team chooses to recruit additional players. The intent of this rule is to ensure each team has a starting point to begin its recruiting and, more importantly, provide a basis on determining player eligibility. Once a team has established a base school, that base school is "locked in," unless special written permission is requested and granted by the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman to change base schools. On rare occasions, teams are permitted to share a base school, if the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman grants permission. The Department Americanism Commission strongly discourages the practice of two or more teams sharing a base school. An NC American Legion post may sponsor more than one team, and several posts can sponsor a single team.

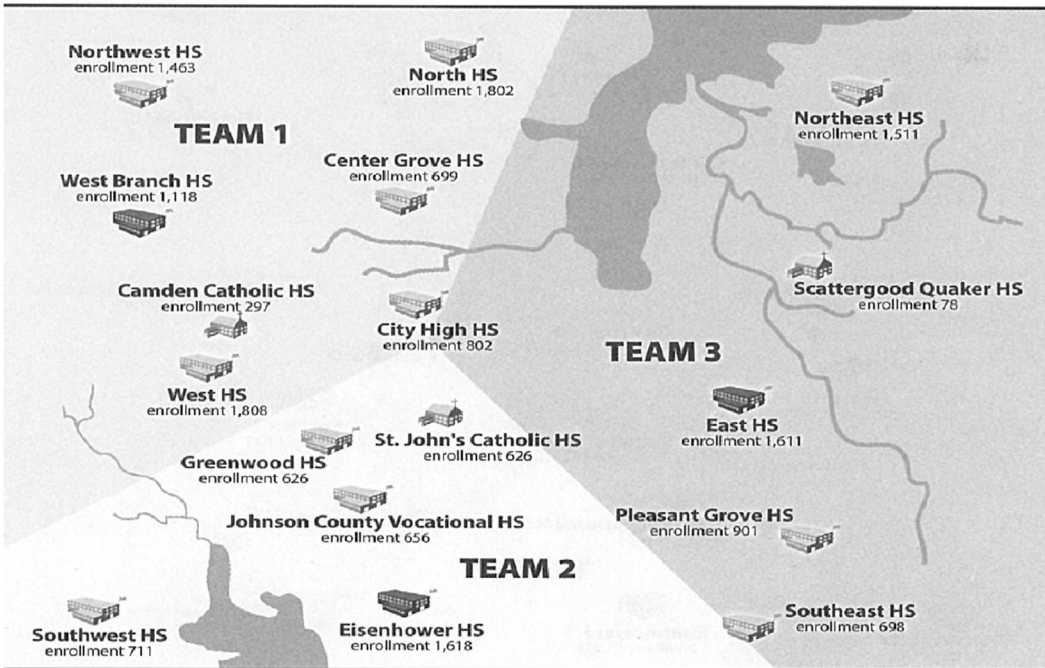
Rule 4.B. - This rule affects every player, and it prioritizes those players that a team can recruit:

1. Players who attend the team's base school.
2. Players who attend a nearby school or their parent's domicile is nearest the team's base school.
3. Players who were enrolled in high school on March 31, 2022 and who have been cut (released) and transferred to the next nearest team.

PLAN B BASE MAP 1



PLAN B BASE MAP 2

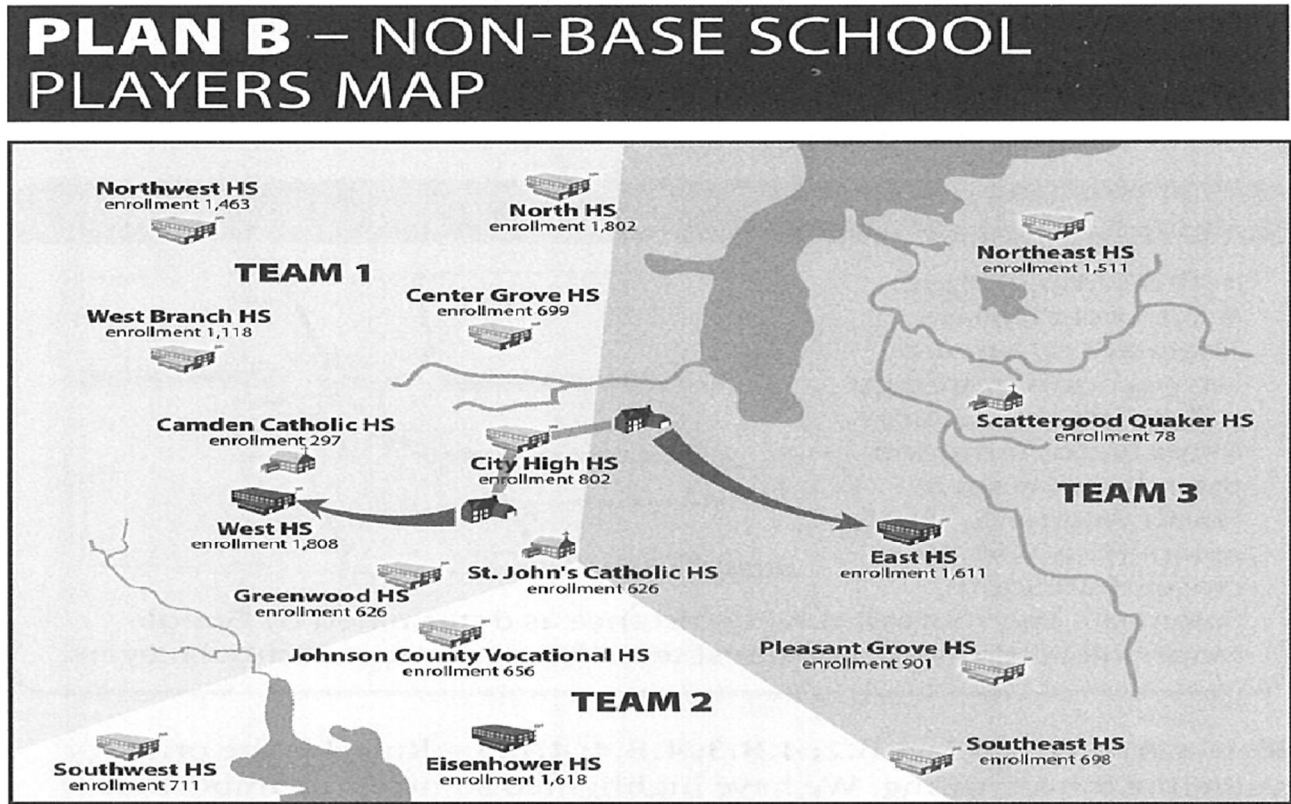


Starting with the base school, team managers may recruit additional players from nearby high schools. coaches must be aware of their recruiting boundaries. The manager must be aware of other Legion teams, their base schools and their recruiting areas.

Whenever a team selects a player, the team shall count the enrollment of the high school that player attended on March 31. If college or university players are selected, the team will treat these players as if they were still in high school and count the enrollment of their previous high school. The high school from which they graduated will be listed on Department Electronic Form #1 (do not list the college or university).

In the Plan B map, the three Legion teams have selected a base school. From this starting point, these teams may extend out and recruit additional players, provided the team does not exceed 7,500 in total enrollment of 10th, 11th and 12th grades. Base maps 1 and 2 illustrate different base schools. These maps show the importance of how the selection of a base school can change recruiting boundaries. It is important to remember that teams must request permission from the Department Fastpitch Softball Committee to change base schools.

As demonstrated, the selection of the base school is critical and must be approved in writing by the Department Fastpitch Softball committee.



SELECTING NON-BASE SCHOOL PLAYERS

When selecting non-base school players, coaches may recruit players whose parent's domicile is nearest the team's base school. **To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps. The NC American Legion shall use the shortest driving distance (miles) to determine the closest team. Any dispute over player eligibility shall be determined by the Department Fastpitch Softball Committee using Google Maps.**

On the recruiting, non-base school players' map (above), a line is drawn from the player's home to the base schools. Though some players attend the same school, they are required to try out for two different Legion teams. The best examples are the two players who live in the City HS district. Because there are two nearby base schools, these players will try out for two different teams. Team 1 and Team 3 shall be charged with the full enrollment of City High HS, which is 802. No partial enrollment or shared enrollment is permitted. Each team shall be charged with the full enrollment. As shown on the recruiting non-base school players' map, each team is given an area to select players who are attending nearby schools. To select a player from another team's "area" or base school requires a transfer. If no transfer is granted, those players are ineligible to play.

SAMPLE MAP

In this sample, Player A lives near Dallas. There are two nearby base schools (noted by yellow blocks). Google Maps has determined the nearest team is North Salem HS. North Salem HS is 0.55 miles closer than South Salem HS. The shortest driving distance as determined by Google Maps will determine the nearest team for all non-base school players.

The map shows a central location labeled 'Player A - Parent's Domicile - 1500 Box Lane'. Two yellow rectangular callouts provide driving distances to nearby schools: 'Player A - P to North Salem HS - 18.04 mi' and 'Player A - P to South Salem HS - 18.59 mi'. The map includes various geographical features like roads, rivers, and other towns such as Perrydale, Brooks, Mount Angel, and Turner. A legend at the bottom of the map area states: 'DELOIRME ©2002 DeLorme (www.delorme.com), StreetAtlas USA® 2003'. The text on the left explains that Google Maps is used to determine the nearest team based on the shortest driving distance.

Rule 4.A; 4.B; 4.B.1; 4.B.2; 4.B.3; 4.B.4; 4.B.5 - Rule 4 is the primary guideline for recruiting. We have highlighted the important aspects of recruiting players outside of the base school. The following chart is an example of combining schools and changing combinations of schools. Note that the base schools (West HS, Eisenhower HS and East HS) are locked in and can only be changed with written permission from the chairman. Rule 4.A.2 requires the team manager to get written permission from the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman prior to recruiting players from a different combination of schools.

2018 TEAM COMBINATIONS

TEAM 1

West HS (Base School)	5	1,808
Camden Catholic HS	6	297
City High HS	5	802
West Branch HS	1	1,118
Center Grove HS	1	699
Total	18	4,724

TEAM 2

Eisenhower HS (Base)	6	1,618
Pleasant Grove HS	6	901
Greenwood HS	4	626
St. John Catholic HS	1	299
Johnson Co. Voc HS	1	656
Total	18	4,100

TEAM 3

East HS (Base)	8	1,611
Northeast HS	4	1,511
Center Grove HS	3	699
City High HS	3	802
Total	18	4,623

2019 TEAM COMBINATIONS

TEAM 1

West HS (Base School)	11	1,808
Camden Catholic HS	1	297
City High HS	1	802
Greenwood HS*	3	626
St. John Catholic HS*	1	299
Johnson Co. Voc HS*	1	656
Total	18	4,488

TEAM 2

Eisenhower HS (Base)	5	1,618
Pleasant Grove HS	3	901
Southeast HS*	5	698
Southwest HS*	5	711
Total	18	3,928

TEAM 3

East HS (Base)	11	1,611
City High HS	3	802
Northeast HS	2	1,511
Pleasant Grove HS*	2	901
Total	18	4,825

*Denotes new school added to different combinations of schools for team in 2022. Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman must approve prior to placing player on Department Form #1. Permission is not necessary to drop a school, only to add a new school.

The majority of players do not need to be from the base school unless department rules require it. Plan B allows your team the flexibility to change school combinations to recruit nearby players. It is important to note that teams can only recruit players who attend or live closest their base school. Players who live near another base school's territory are required to try out for the nearest Legion team. If cut, they may be transferred to the next closest team.

Rule 4.C, 4.C.1, 4.C.1.a, 4.C.1.b - The purpose of this rule is to allow players who attend a high school outside the team's recruiting territory to have an option to return home and play for the team nearest his parent's domicile, or to play for the team nearest the school the player attends. For example, a player attends a private boarding school several states away. In this situation, The NC American Legion provides a player an option to play for the Legion team nearest the school he attends or for the team nearest the parent's domicile. This rule also applies to those players who attend any public or private schools located outside their team's recruiting territory. This rule gives those players an option, with an understanding that once a decision is made, the player and the parents are bound by their decision for the 2022 season.

There are two critical issues involved with this rule:

1. The player's school enrollment will be added to the total enrollment.
2. The player must complete a Declaration Form #77 and understand that such election is for the 2022 season, provided the player does not change residency or schools.

The map on page 14 demonstrates this rule. Player A lives in the Eisenhower HS boundary (Team 2) but attends Camden Catholic HS. Player A has an option of playing for Team 2 (team nearest his parent's

domicile) or Team 1 (team nearest the school he attends). The player must declare that decision on Form #77 and have permission from the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman prior to being placed on Department Form #1. The team for which Player A plays shall count the enrollment of the high school (Camden Catholic) the player attends. Player B lives in the Greenwood HS boundary and also attends Camden Catholic HS. Player B does not have an option to play for Team 2. Since the school he attends and his parent's domicile is within Team 1's recruiting area, Player B must play for Team 1. Player B does not need to complete Department Form #77.

PLAN B – OPTION RULE MAP



Rule 4.D - Transfer Rule. A player released from a team must obtain permission on Department Transfer Form #76 from that team's manager to play for the team next closest to his parent's domicile.

1. To determine the nearest team from among several, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.
2. The player must provide signed Transfer Form #76 to the new team manager, which must be forwarded to the authorized Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman for approval, prior to listing the player on Form #1. All transfers shall be for one year. All transfers shall expire Dec. 31, 2022.

Rule 4.E - School Enrollment Expansion, 4.E.1; 4.E.2 - This rule allows players on last year's roster to finish their Legion Fastpitch Softball careers with their team when an increase in school enrollment occurs. Following are critical points in qualifying players under this rule:

1. Only players listed on the previous year's roster can qualify.
2. The team must have the same combination of schools. (If a team changes school combinations, players are no longer qualified under this rule.)
3. No new players can be recruited from the school or schools that are dropped.
4. Prior permission from the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman is given.

2018 TEAM		
SCHOOL	ENROLMENT	PLAYERS
East HS (Base)	1,611	5
Northeast HS	1,511	6
City High HS	1,802	5
Pleasant Grove HS	1,901	2
Total	6,825	18

2019 TEAM		
SCHOOL	ENROLMENT	PLAYERS
East HS (Base)	1,661	5
Northeast HS	1,575	6
City High HS	2,189	6
Pleasant Grove HS	2,100	1
Total	7,525	18

In the example above, three school enrollments grew in population, causing the team to exceed the 7,500-enrollment cap. Those players who appeared on the 2021 roster may continue to play. However, this team must drop a school from its approved combination in 2022 and inform the department Fastpitch Softball Chairman which school it is dropping from its approved combination. The team must seek written permission from the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman to utilize those players who did appear on the 2021 roster and place an asterisk by those names and attach the letter of approval to Department Form #1. No new players can be recruited from the dropped high school. In the example above, the team would probably drop the Pleasant Grove HS and "grandfather" the single player since Team 3 recruits several players from the other schools.

Rule 4.F - Change of Address Rule, 4.F.1, 4.F.2 - This rule allows a player whose parents have moved and established a new permanent domicile to play for the nearest team. Enrollment of the school that player attended on March 31, 2022, shall be counted. The intent is clear: if the parents move and establish a new permanent domicile, the player is permitted to play for the team from the new location. The player's eligibility is tied to his parent's domicile, not to the player's domicile, as is the case with many college and university players. Department Fastpitch Softball Officials have been advised that temporary leases, short-term rentals and post office boxes are not permanent domiciles. Department Fastpitch Softball Chairmen can request additional evidence as proof of this permanent change of domicile. Teams must seek permission from the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman prior to placing the player on Department Form #1

Rule 4.G - Final Year of Eligibility, 4.G.1, 4.G.2 - Senior Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball players who have one year of eligibility remaining, whose parents move out of the team's recruiting area, shall have an

option of playing for the team nearest their parent's new domicile or returning to their former team. This rule shall not apply to Junior Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball Teams.

1. The enrollment of the high school the player attends on March 31, 2022, shall be counted.
2. Written permission to play for their previous team must be obtained from the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman prior to listing the player on Department Form #1.

Rule 4.H - Homeschool Player - Rule 4.H provides explanation as to enrollment that will be counted for homeschooled players. To ensure parity in the program, The NC American Legion requires the team to count the enrollment of the nearest public school. For example, Player C is homeschooled and wishes to play NC American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball. Player C lives in the Northeast HS boundary. Team 3 will count the Northeast HS enrollment as well as the base school enrollment (East HS).

Rule 4.I - New Team Formation - Rule 4.I provides instructions when a new team is formed, and a player's eligibility changes. For example, if a fourth team is started in the area and that team selects North HS as its base school, any player, whose domicile is closer to North HS shall be eligible to try out for Team 4. If a player is listed on the previous team, this rule permits those players a one-time option of deciding to try out for Team 4 or to continue their eligibility with previous team. The player needs to send a letter to the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman informing the Chairman of his final decision. This rule does not apply to existing teams that change their base school and only applies to players registered on 2021 existing teams.

Questions concerning any rule interpretations are to be directed either by the team manager or the head coach to the Area Commissioner who will confer with the Department Fastpitch Softball chairman.

RULE 5: ADMINISTRATION - ORGANIZATION

Below are the procedures for beginning a North Carolina 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. **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

5. **National Anthem**

- A. **Jurisdiction:** All American Legion softball will be played under the Department Fastpitch Softball Committee's jurisdiction and the Americanism Commission's supervision.
- B. **Disputes:** All Post Athletic Officers/Managers will deal with their Area Commissioners on matters pertaining to NCALLF Softball. Where the matter pertains to teams of two areas, the matter will be referred to the Area Commissioners of the two areas, and the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman.
- C. **Returning Teams:** Previous Years Teams shall register by May 2nd, 2022, by completing the Previous Teams Registration Form along with Post Agreement Form and mailing them together along with your team registration fee of \$450.00 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 \$550.00 dollars to the address listed below:

**All 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 to year until the team is no longer participating in the NCALLF Softball program.

Note: The Department will pay the Umpire Booking Agent fee of **\$50.00** per team to each Areas Umpire Booking Agent. This fee is part of each team's registration fee paid to the Department.

- 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 Softball Chairman/Fastpitch Softball Committee may select a suitable replacement team.
- F. **Insurance:** Insurance will be purchased by the NC Department of American Legion 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 Department of American Legion. 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.

H. 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.

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

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

J. Rained Out/Suspended Games: Must be re-scheduled with 24 hours and the Area Commissioner 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 Commissioner will name the time and place within a 24-hour period.

K. 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 6: PROTESTS AND PROCEDURES

- A. Department Policies and Regulations.** It is the duty of the Department Fastpitch Softball 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. Financial Obligations:** 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!
1. 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.
 2. 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 Committee shall decide questions, disputes, and protests within a program. The Department Fastpitch Softball 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 Commissioner must be called at that time and written protest must be given to Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman 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, cash or money order made payable to the Department of North Carolina American Legion. Any appeal to the Department Fastpitch Softball 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. 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 Department Fastpitch Softball 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 Softball Chairman as to the circumstances involved.

F. **Written Proof.** All protests of player's 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 Department Fastpitch Softball rules during actual game play must be filed with the umpire-in-chief before the last out of the game.

RULE 7: 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 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 Commissioners at the prescribed time. All forms will be available at this website: www.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 Commissioner and Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman 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 NCALLF Softball team may have more than 22 players. **SB Form#1 (Roster)** must also be emailed to; the Area Commissioner, who will certify teams/players and forward certified rosters to the Fastpitch Softball Chairman and 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 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.

F. **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 Commissioners and Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman at legionladyfastpitch@gmail.com, **NLT JULY 15th**. 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/Team Mom for Post Season Play!

1. Dual roster is permitted for those teams with affiliated senior and junior teams. Junior players may dually roster and play on the senior and junior teams during the season. However, Seniors are not eligible to 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. Dual rostered players will count towards the 22 allowed on a roster. 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 8: SPORTSMANSHIP – CONDUCT - EJECTIONS

- A. Conduct.** Managers, coaches or players who in the opinion of the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman or his Area Commissioner, conduct themselves in an un-sportsman like manner, **that would discredit the program**, may be **removed** by the Department Fastpitch Softball Committee. 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 unprofessionalism of an Umpire, Area Commissioner, Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman or in reference to the North Carolina American Legion Lady 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 Commissioner and the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman for disciplinary review and disposition of disciplinary action before the next scheduled game. The decision of the Department Fastpitch Softball Chairman 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 Tournament 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 facility.

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA AMERICAN LEGION LADY FASTPITCH SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

JUNIORS

2017 – No Junior Championship
2018 – Cleveland Count Post 82 (Sanctioned)
2019 – Rutherford County Post 423
2020 – Cancelled (COVID-19 PANDEMIC)
2022 – Rowan County Post 112

SENIORS

2017 – Concord Post 51 (Un Sanctioned)
2018 – Concord Post 51 (Sanctioned)
2019 – Cumberland County Post 32
2020 – Cancelled (COVID-19 PANDEMIC)
2022 – Davidson County Post 8

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA 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 revisited 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.