



2023 Rules

The American Legion Department of North Carolina

2940 Falstaff Road, PO Box 26657

Raleigh, NC 27610

www.nclegion.org



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2022 SENIOR STATE CHAMPIONS

Players
Back Row:
Front Row:

2022 JUNIOR STATE CHAMPIONS

Players
Back Row:
Front Row:

SOFTBALL SUBCOMMITTEE

Area I

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NORTH CAROLINA AMERICAN LEGION LEGION LADIES FASTPITCH SOFTBALL RULES FOR 2023

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR BEGINNING A BALL GAME:

1. OPEN WITH PRAYER or MOMENT OF SILENCE
2. CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP:
 I will:
 KEEP THE RULES
 KEEP FAITH WITH MY TEAMMATES
 KEEP MY TEMPER
 KEEP MYSELF FIT
 KEEP A STOUT HEART IN DEFEAT
 KEEP MY PRIDE UNDER IN VICTORY
 KEEP A SOUND SOUL, A CLEAN MIND, AND A HEALTHY BODY
3. NATIONAL ANTHEM.

Organization

All American Legion regular season, Area, or Department playoff games played to determine the NC Champion will be under the jurisdiction of the NC Department Softball Subcommittee.

1. All Post Athletic Officers and Team Managers shall deal with their Area Commissioner on all matters pertaining to softball. Where the matter pertains to two teams in different areas, the matter will be referred to the two Area Commissioners and the Department Baseball Committee.
 - All Athletic Officers should obtain a birth record and a current address for all players trying out for their team. Any player too old or out of the teams recruiting area will cause forfeiture of all games in which said player participated.
2. All American Legion Softball Teams operating in North Carolina must comply with all pertinent resolutions including Resolution #16, adopted by the National Executive Committee, October 2016, titled "Expectations for Rendering Proper Respect when Participating in Programs of the American Legion," and the regulations adopted by the Department of North Carolina Baseball Committee as set forth herewith:
 - a) **Team Registration Notice:** A post deciding to sponsor a softball team must fill out a Registration Form, Player Indemnity Form, Base School & Feeder School Form, and Post Agreement found online at the www.nclegion.org and send to the Department Program Manager by May 1st. Teams may be able to enter the program late if approved by the Area Commissioner and the Department Baseball Committee and may be assessed a \$200 late fee. New Teams have a grace period to submit all forms by May 15th. Registration Fee for teams is set at \$450. All forms and fees will be sent to:
American Legion Dept. of NC

Attn: Program Manager
PO Box 26657
Raleigh, NC 27611

All Teams will be charged a onetime \$200 forfeit fee to be included in your registration for new teams.

- b) **Records Required:** All forms to be used in softball activities will be furnished by the American Legion Department of North Carolina. **All forms and records must be prepared in accordance with instructions listed on the forms and signed by all required. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.**
 - c) No Softball team is allowed to practice, tryout, or play a game until all forms have been submitted to the Department of North Carolina and the team is official.
3. All American Legion Softball teams in NC shall be sponsored by a chartered American Legion Post in good standing. The Post Finance Officer must be a signer on the Post Softball checking account.
 4. All teams must have a base school and declared feeder schools not to exceed enrollment numbers, from which they may start their recruiting. Teams are prohibited from using private schools as base schools. All new teams and any change of base schools or feeder schools, by existing teams, must be approved by the Softball Committee. Requests for changes from returning teams must be made by **February 1st** to Department Softball Subcommittee and the Area Director.
 5. **Resolution #32, adopted during the American Legion 2020 Fall meetings, mandates a background check and abuse awareness training for coaches, managers, and volunteer staff of every American Legion Baseball Team annually.**
 6. All teams shall have all Forms and any other eligibility forms (76, 77, 6, etc.) on file with the Area Director before game play begins.
 7. Team roster must be completed and submitted to the Baseball Committee Chairman and the Department Program Manager prior to the first conference game scheduled. All teams must submit their participation fee of \$10 per rostered player to the Department of North Carolina along with their roster. A minimum of 9 active players is required with no more than 22. If any team falls below the minimum before a post season game then the Softball Subcommittee and Department Baseball Chairman may find a suitable replacement if feasible.
 8. Age Verification: Each team must always maintain proof of age in their possession and is subject to inspection at any time.

- a) Birth Certificate: Records of birth must be an original or a state certified document from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or Department of Health or other government agency authorized to certify birth documents. (A state seal or appropriate government stamp shall be visible on the state certified document.)
 - b) Driver's License: 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. NC DOT has verified that NC Driver's Licenses are following the Federal Real ID Law.
 - c) Foreign Birth: In case of foreign birth, a player will present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service or by the Department of State that shows the birth date of the bearer. Official birth certificates issued by a foreign country are acceptable when accompanied by a letter with an English translation, and such birth certificate must have an official seal.
 - d) Adopted Players: A properly **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. **Note:** It is suggested that when obtaining out-of-state certificates that these be requested by the parent or legal guardian. Many states will release birth records only to a parent or guardian.
 - e) 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 team.
9. A Post entering a softball team shall be obligated to pay all justifiable financial obligations and/or debts of their softball team for the previous softball season prior to acceptance for entry of play and/or continued participation in American Legion Ladies Fastpitch Softball. Any alleged violation(s) of this rule shall be forwarded to the Internal Affairs Commission of the Department of North Carolina which shall review, investigate, evaluate, and issue a final determination whether a violation(s) occurred. If the Internal Affairs Commission of the Department of North Carolina determines there is a violation(s), 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.
10. All questions, disputes, and protests within the Department shall be decided by the Department Baseball Committee. The Baseball Committee shall have the power to disqualify or suspend anyone violating Department Regulations. **THE COMMITTEE RULING SHALL BE FINAL.**
11. **Any situation arising in the Department that is not covered by ALLFS rules will be under the jurisdiction of the Department Baseball Committee whose decision is final.**

Player Recruiting

1. **State of North Carolina rules on recruitment.**

- a. Teams must declare a base school and all feeder schools. Base schools must be a public school. Charter, private, Christian, etc. schools may not be used as base schools.

In addition, feeder schools must public schools only. Players that attend a base or feeder school may not be recruited by any other team and will require a release to play for any other team. Base schools plus feeder school enrollment numbers of the recruiting area (combination of schools) shall not exceed 7,500 students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

Players that attend a school not declared as a base or feeder school, to include private, charter, Christian, etc., may be recruited using the player's parents domicile as of March 31st of the playing year. These players must play and tryout at the closest softball team's base school to the player's parents domicile.

2. **Transfer Rule:** A player released from a team must obtain permission on Transfer Form 76 from the team's manager to play for the team next closest to his parent's domicile.

- a) To determine the nearest team from among several, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.
- b) The player must provide a signed Transfer Form 76, available online at www.nclegion.org to the new team manager, which must be forwarded to the authorized Department Softball official for approval, prior to listing the player on Form 1. All transfers shall be for one year and shall expire on December 31st of that playing year.
- c) Players who played for a previous team and a new team forms closer to the parents domicile may elect to play for the previous team or the new team. Transfer form 76 is not needed.

Eligibility

1. **Senior Team Players Age Eligibility:** Senior American Legion Softball competition in 2023 is open only to players born on or after January 1, 2004. Players born in 2003 are not eligible.
2. **Junior Team Player Age Eligibility:** Junior American Legion Softball competition is open to any player born on or after January 1, 2006. 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 2005 are not eligible. Players ages 12 and under are not eligible.

3. Team Managers must obtain a birth record and current address for all players trying out for their softball team.
 - a) 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.
 - b) Coaches will need to provide proof of a player's eligibility if protested.

Elimination

1. The previous year's area assignment will carry over to the current year. As soon as the Softball Subcommittee can determine accurately the Posts that are entering teams, it will divide the state of North Carolina into areas and assign a Director to each area if a change is warranted.
2. Each Commissioner may divide the teams in his area into groups or leagues, and shall, before the current season, determine schedules and rules for eliminating teams and determining the championship team in their area. The Commissioner will also certify the participating teams from their area for the state championship play by the day prior to teams reporting for at the State Tournament.

Regulations

1. North Carolina American Legion Lady Fastpitch Senior League Softball play will be utilizing National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Rules.
2. North Carolina American Legion Lady Fastpitch Junior League Softball play will be utilizing National Federation High School (NFHS) Rules.
3. 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.
4. North Carolina Partners with North Carolina USA Softball (The National/International governing body of Fastpitch Softball)
5. **Ball Rule:** All NCALLF Softball Teams will play with the Wilson brand softballs. There is a Wilson Link on the Department webpage under the softball program. www.nclegion.org The Department of North Carolina will be able to receive a small percentage from all Wilson sales from that link only. Each team is strongly encouraged to participate in this to help further the Softball program. All Junior

and Senior Home teams will provide two (2) Stamped NFHS / NCAA Wilson 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. NCAA Collegiate Series WTA9010BSST

Approved Ball List for Juniors:

1. Wilson NFHS Champion Series WTA9011BSST
2. Wilson NFHS Champion Series WTA9016BSST
3. Dudley NFHS "Thunder Heat" Fastpitch
4. Dudley NFHS WT12YFP "Thunder Heat"
5. Dudley NFHS 43-147 "Thunder Heat"

6. **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.
7. **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).
8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **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 Director.

11. **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.
12. **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 Subcommittee and State UIC.
13. **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.
14. **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 sixthirty 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.
15. **Student Enrollment Confirmation Source:** 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).
16. **Game Curfew Time:** No Game will start after 10 p.m. (Regular Season Only)!
17. **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 Director and the Department Baseball 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 Director.
18. All coaches and scorekeepers must be identified to the Homeplate umpire at the coaches meeting.

19. Softball team personnel in a dugout may consist of:

- a) Only players with a Player Indemnity Form
- b) Must have at least 2 coaches.
- c) 1 bat boy or girl. (No adults)
- d) Team Scorekeeper.
- e) Team Manager
- f) Certified Trainer

Only the personnel listed, and the Post Athletic Officer will be permitted to sit on the player's bench. These personnel must also be listed on the team's SB Roster Form 1. It shall be the duty of the Umpire-in-Chief to enforce this rule. The only adults permitted to be in uniform shall be the Manager and coaches. Once warned, continued violation will result in the game being forfeited.

20. Authorized Personnel

- 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:
- c. Background Check (Must be completed online at <https://opportunities.averity.com/ALNCBaseball> ; no other Background Checks will be accepted. Mandatory Abuse Training will automatically be sent immediately upon completion of your background check and is required to be completed immediately after background check is completed.
- d. Current SafeSport training certificate.
- e. Concussion Certificate (must last through post season play)
- f. A non-Legionnaire may serve as a coach.

Protest Procedures:

1. **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 Department Baseball 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 Director 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 Baseball 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 Director 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 Director 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 as to the circumstances involved.

2. **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.
3. **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.

Expenses

1. All team expenses shall be taken care of by team sponsors.
2. A fee of \$200 will be assessed each team for the protection against forfeits. The fee shall be submitted to Department Headquarters as a certified check made payable to the American Legion Department of NC. No team shall commence play without paying this fee. In case of forfeiture of any game, the \$200 will go to the opposing team and the offending team will not be permitted to play further games until another certified check for \$200 has been received by Department Headquarters.
 - a) Withdrawal from American Legion Softball whether permanent or temporary will constitute a loss of forfeit fees and any return to softball in the future will require repayment of fees.
1. For any playoff game that may be a split gate, the following rules will be in effect:
 - a) Home team will sell tickets
 - b) Visiting team will collect tickets
 - c) No passes will be honored except State Officials and persons itemized in Regulations subparagraph 19.
 - d) Gate will be determined by visiting team by multiplying the adult tickets by the admission price and the student tickets by the admission price. Add the sums of the 2 types of tickets sold then subtract the standard \$350 for facility and maintenance and subtract the umpire fees. The remainder is then divided equally among the home and visitor teams. If the home team is unable to comply, then the game will be moved to the other team's field. Violations of the fair gate splitting will result in the game being forfeited and the team suspended from further play.
 - e) Admission prices for all American Legion regular season play will not exceed \$10

Conduct

1. Managers, coaches, players, and personnel listed in Regulations 19 of these rules, in the opinion of the Area Director or the members of the Department Softball Subcommittee conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner that would discredit this program, may be removed by the Department Softball Subcommittee. Any applicable appeal from the Department of North Carolina Baseball Committee shall comply with the Department of North Carolina Constitution and By-Laws. Each team must maintain a minimum of 2 coaches.
2. No player, coach, manager, or any other party associated with an American Legion Softball team shall abuse, heckle, or make uncomplimentary remarks to opposing players or team officials. An individual violating this regulation shall be ejected immediately from the game by the umpire or American Legion Baseball Committee and/or Softball Subcommittee member.
3. Any player, coach, manager, or other party accompanying a team will be ejected from the game if they:
 - a) Use profane language
 - b) Make unnecessary gestures in protesting an umpire's decision. (Only team managers or head coaches may ask for clarification of a rule; they may never argue).
 - c) Make unnecessary gestures to fans or opposing players
 - d) Throw bats or other equipment
 - e) Resort to unnecessary roughness on the playing field. American Legion officials, including coaches, athletic officers, bat boys/girls, players, etc., who utter derogatory remarks about Legion Softball will be suspended. This applies before, during, or after the game or season.
2. Any coach, manager, or adult associated with the American Legion Softball and is ejected by an umpire must leave the ballpark.
 - a) Coaches, managers, or adults associated with the team (this includes any legion member) will automatically be suspended for 1 game day. During the suspension the person will NOT be allowed to attend the game without permission from the Area Director. No type of communication with the dugout or team will be allowed. Violation of this rule will be additional suspension as deemed by the Area Director.
 - b) Any person ejected from a ballgame must be reported to the Area Director by the Athletic Officer or Team Manager and the game umpire or umpire booking agent no later than noon the day

following the suspension. Any suspension for more than 1 game must be reported to the Department Baseball Chairman.

KEY DATES OF IMPORTANCE

February 1st, 2023- Base School and Feeder School Declaration Form Deadline

May 1st, 2023- Deadline for Registration

May 15th, 2023- Deadline for new team registration and grace period ends.

July 15th, 2023- Team rosters final date to submit. 22-player Roster ALSB form #1 must be submitted along with player participation fee. (Must be submitted before 1st conference game whichever comes first.)

July 17th, 2023- Area play will end and State Playoffs begin (lower seed to higher seed).

July 29th – 30th, 2023 Jr. Legion State Championship at Post 56 Big League Camp, Marion NC

July 31st – 2nd, 2023 Department Championship Tournament. Post 116 Host at Middle Creek Park, Cary, NC