

**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**RULES FOR LADY FASTPITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE 2022**  
**Revised May 04, 2022**

**PARTICIPANTS**

1. Any player that is a rising 8<sup>th</sup> grader to any player that does not turn age 19 prior to January 1st of the playing year will be eligible to play. (Cutoff 01/2003)
2. A player's domicile shall be her parents or permanent court-appointed guardian's permanent and legal domicile.
3. If the parents are divorced by a court order, that player may play for a team of either parent's legal and permanent domicile provided the player must declare, in writing, the team of her choice and file that declaration with the softball chairman prior to closing date of signing up by teams
4. If both parents are deceased or incapable of caring for and supervising the player during minority, 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. Only those players that are considered amateur shall participate.

**PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY**

The American Legion Department of SC will accept a document issued by a U.S. government agency or foreign government-issued birth certificate if that document is an original or has a raised seal of stamp with an English translation. The American Legion Department of SC will accept documents from any federal government agency.

**GAMES** A game will consist of two five inning games.

1. Games will be played Monday thru Thursday
2. Three and ½ innings will constitute a complete 5 inning game.
3. Mercy rule will be ahead by 10 runs at the end of three and 1/2 innings
4. A one seven inning game will be allowed for tournament play.
5. Four and ½ innings will constitute a complete 7 inning game.
6. All rainout games must be played. Failure to play rescheduled game (s) will result in both teams taking a loss for each game (s) not played,
7. Rainouts will be rescheduled between the two coaches involved.
8. Fake tag will not be allowed and if called by the umpire, runner advances one base.
9. Any player or coach ejected from a game will be suspended from the next scheduled league or playoff. The softball chairman shall be notified. Second offenses could cause suspension for the remainder of the year and may be fined \$100.00
10. **All game results must be emailed or called by HOME team by 10:00 a.m. following the conclusion of the game to [rdscherer@ymail.com](mailto:rdscherer@ymail.com) or 828-292-6031.**
11. Scores and standings will be published twice a week to each team and the DEC.

## **TEAMS**

All teams must have a base school.

New teams must request and receive approval for a base school from the department softball committee at the time the team registers with the department softball committee.

If two or more teams are sponsored by the same American Legion post, the department softball committee will assign the base school for each team.

Teams may not recruit a player(s) from another team's base school.

## **PLAYER RECRUITING**

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

1. Players not selected to play with the team in their base school zone may play for the nearest base school zone provided they have a written transfer (Form #05) from the team manager in the base school zone.
  - a. The department softball chairman must approve all transfers prior to listing the player on final roster.
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 softball chairman prior to listing the player on the final years roster. This request must be accompanied by the parent's affidavit stating that the move is permanent and listing the previous and present domicile addresses.

## **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 for and authorized by the department division chairman prior to listing the player on the official roster.

## **TRANSFER OF PLAYERS.**

Any player wanting to transfer to another team must have Form 05 filled out properly by the coach and submitted to the softball committee for approval.

## **SCHEDULE AND PROTEST**

The Softball Committee shall prepare and publish schedules: pass upon the eligibility of players and teams: and perform all other functions necessary for the conduct of the program in accordance with National and Department rules.

## **PROTESTS**

1. Rules of Protest
  - a. All protests must be delivered in writing to the League Committee and Softball Chairman.
  - b. Protests must be signed by the Post Commander or a duly authorized representative.
  - c. Protests must be of a specific nature and must set forth definite evidence.
  - d. Protests must be accompanied by a fee of \$300.00 cash, certified check or money order
  - e. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld, otherwise the fee will revert to the Department Americanism Account
2. Protests involving judgement of umpires will not be considered.
3. Protests of Team School Enrollment of Enrollees as listed on team rosters must be reported to the Softball Chairman immediately upon discovery, in writing using the official protest guidelines listed above.
4. During league play, protests involving actual play of game must be filed with the Softball Committee Chairman within 24 hours after completion of the game. Verbal protests will be accepted, but the written protest and fee must be received by the Softball Chairman within 48 hours of completion of the game.
5. In the event protest involves the actual play of a game, the Umpire-in-Chief must be advised before resumption of play. The team's authorized representative must state that the game is being played under protest. The grounds which the protest is being made must be specific. The Umpire-in-Chief will file a written report with the Softball Chairman immediately after the protested game is completed delineating the circumstances involved. The game must continue until an official game is recorded.
6. Protest originating after completion of League play must be filed in writing, with fee and delivered, in person to the Softball Chairman or his representative immediately after the protested game is complete.
7. Decisions of the THE American Legion Softball Committee will be final and are not subject to appeal to any other body of THE American Legion unless it can be proved that the decisions are in direct violation of the National Rules.

Requests for interpretation of rules shall be made in writing to The American Legion Softball Chairman. The Softball Chairman will furnish interpretation in writing.

## **TEAM REGISTRATION**

All teams must complete the following forms and send proof of completion to Softball Chairman to be registered with The American Legion Department of South Carolina.

1. Apply for team insurance through Chappell, K& K., or any authorized company.

2. Complete background check, Drug and Alcohol Policy, and Abuse/Molestation Risk Management program. (see AL Baseball website) (Coaches actively coaching this year need not have a background check)
3. Send proof of insurance, background check, Drug and Alcohol Policy, and Abuse/Molestation Risk Management program to Softball Chairman
4. Softball chairman will forward to Department all required forms when completed from all teams registered.
5. Registration fee of \$55.00. Check to be made out to The American Legion Department of South Carolina and forwarded along with required paperwork to league chairman,

### **PLAYER REGISTRATION**

All players, their parents or court-approved legal guardians must complete Player Agreement and Parent's Consent Form #3. The team manager will retain the original Form #4 and have it available at all games. The copy must be filed with the department softball chairman. Any team or player who fails to complete and file Form #3 shall be disqualified from any further play.

### **PLAYERS PER TEAM.**

No American Legion Softball team may have more than 18 registered players listed on the official South Carolina American Legion Softball Team Roster Form.

### **UNIFORMS.**

**Uniforms:** All participants must be in uniform to play. A uniform may just consist of everyone wearing the same type jersey, T-shirt, or it may be a complete uniform with Jersey, pants, and leggings. Ball caps/visors are at the discretion of the coach.

**Patches:** The department will forward to each team 20 patches and these patches are to be placed on the lefthand sleeve or above the heart. If a team wants more than 20, they must order from the league chairman by February 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 as we hope to put in the initial run of 600 patches. We will need groups of 100 to reorder. If you feel you want more, get with other coaches.

**Coaches/Managers:** Would like to have them in same type jersey or t-shirt with post name.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT.**

1. **CONDUCT:** Managers, coaches, or who, in the opinion of the department softball chairman or his representative, conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner that would discredit this program may be removed by the department softball committee. The department softball committee's decision shall be final.
2. **HECKLING:** No player, coach, manager, or other party associated with an American Legion Softball team shall abuse, heckle, or make uncomplimentary remarks to opposing players, team officials or umpires. The umpire shall immediately eject from the game any individuals violating this regulation.

3. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Any player, coach, manager, or other party accompanying a team will be ejected from the game from the time of the infraction if they:
  - a. Use profane language
  - b. Throw bats or other equipment.
  - c. Make unnecessary or obscene gestures to umpires, fans, or opposing players
  - d. Commit unnecessary roughness on the playing field.
4. **EJECTION FROM THE BALLPARK:** Any player, coach, manager, or other party accompanying a team ejected by an umpire **must leave the ballpark immediately.**
  - a. First time offense—can not play or coach in the next ball game, home or away
  - b. Second time offense—no longer can play or coach for the remainder of the year

**DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS:** It is the duty of the SC department Softball committee to formulate rules and regulations that are not in conflict with national rules.

1. Department recruiting policies may be more restrictive than national rules.
2. Department policies will include procedure for protests. (The protection and stimulation of competition must be used in setting these regulations.)

**DEPARTMENT RULINGS:** The SC department softball committee shall decide all questions, disputes and protests within a department. The department softball committee shall have the authority to disqualify or suspend anyone violating a department policy or national rule.

### **VERIFIER**

Each Coach, Manager, or volunteer staff must successfully pass the mandated background check screening requirements, drug and alcohol abuse program, and abuse/molestation risk management program for each upcoming season.

### **RULE BOOK**

In addition to the rules and regulations, the American Legion Lady Fastpitch Softball League we will use the rule book “United States Specialty Sports Association” (USSSA) now being used by the high schools of South Carolina.