

Department of Nebraska

Athletic Committee

Four Rules Zoom Meeting

October 26, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Chairman Jody Moeller

Chairman Moeller welcomed everyone for being on the Zoom Call for a meeting with baseball managers/coaches and Post Commanders to discuss the Four Rules of an American Legion Program that has been the topic of discussion.

Programs Director Martin went over some ground rules for the meeting and discussion. Discussed the goal of the meeting to open up conversations between the baseball programs and the parent organization (which in most cases will be the Post). Chairman Moeller added that these Four Rules are what we will be complying with for the 2026 baseball season. Moeller added that these rules have been in place for a long time and are being reintroduced to all departments (states). Other organizations also require signatories from the parent organization.

Programs Director Martin read Rule #1:

**"Leadership" -All elected and appointed leaders must be confirmed by the parent organization after each selection, or as needed.**

An example of this would be if a team has a baseball board, their names should be presented to the Post in a meeting to be confirmed and added in the Post Meeting minutes. Additionally, it is recommended that coaches' names also be provided to the Post to be confirmed and added in the Post Meeting minutes.

Question was asked about the confirmation process by the Post and if they may not confirm a coach. Programs Director Martin responded to the question by stating that coaches are vetted by an approved American Legion process of a background check and the sexual abuse training course. Martin added that all that is needed is a letter to the Post to have the names received and the Post can have a discussion and vote and approved. Is it possible for a Post to deny a coach, yes, but that would be discussed in the meeting and reasons could be given.

A follow-up question was asked that having coaches approved by the Post was a surprise. Programs Director Martin discussed that coaches in many cases represent the team and Post during the season, and this does allow the Post to know who the baseball coaches will be. Chairman Moeller did agree that the coaches can be listed but emphasized that the intent is to have any board that is outside of the Post, list how they are managed, who are the board members, here is the letter to the Post that can be read at the next Post meeting to be added to the Post minutes.

A question was asked what if there was a Post representative on the board? Chairman Moeller said that the Post representative would be the one to go back to the Post and report on the baseball program and also present any letters for leadership to be approved, the bylaws to be approved and also the reports to be approved. A concern was presented that in many Posts, having a Post representative on the baseball board will be a challenge and there may not be enough active Legion members in the Post to do this. Programs Director Martin added that having a Post representative on the baseball board is not a requirement and that any member of the baseball board could attend the Post meeting and provide reports to the Post as needed.

There was a statement of a scenario about a player not playing enough and a member of the Post becoming upset and if they could determine now that the baseball program is not following one of the rules and enforce the intellectual property rights. Chairman Moeller asked for us to not to go down the road of what ifs and that this meeting is to discuss the Four Rules.

A statement was made that these Four Rules make a ton of sense in a smaller community where there is one baseball team under the Post. In Lincoln there hasn't been any oversight in years and after COVID, the Post said they would be a sponsor in name only. Much work has been put into creating our own corporations to manage baseball with our own FEIN and are a 501c3. He had no problems sending out a financial statement when it was requested. We register under the American Legion as a team, pay the fee and have our own board under our 501c3 and does not agree to add a Legion member as a board member. He feels they are not a Legion program but a team that chooses to play American Legion baseball each year. He asked if the team was truly an American Legion program, why are they paying registration etc and not the Post that is their parent organization and also why is the Post not filing the tax returns for the team? Programs Director Martin agreed that the Post should be able to cover a team registration fee in most cases, and some do. For Lincoln and Omaha teams, that would be a challenge and would take some coordination with the Post and baseball team. Posts cannot pay for the types of baseball seasons most teams play with 30-50 games. Over the years relationships between the

Posts and baseball teams have been lost and our goal is to help rebuild those relationships. During discussions, the concern that baseball teams relationships are year-to-year that adding a signatory to a bank account. What happens when the season is over? Chairman Moeller added that this is a perfect argument for our larger cities where a Post doesn't have the manpower to manage baseball, here is what has happened...programs have begun to support themselves through baseball boards and receiving donations in the name of American Legion Baseball or possibly not, and to get an interpretation from national on how this type of program falls into the Four Rules.

York shared how their program works and how there is an agreement between the Legion Post and Cornerstone Bank as a sponsor. It defines what the bank is sponsible for and also lists the post commander as a baseball committee member.

A follow-up question about a Post being able to deny a coach or a board member was asked. Programs Director Martin responded yes, when we look at this as an American Legion program, the parent organization would need to confirm the programs leadership.

Programs Director Martin read Rule #2:

**"Rules" - All bylaws, amendments and/or standing rules must be presented to the parent organization for confirmation and approval prior to use.**

Program Director Martin discussed how these Four Rules are not just for our activities like baseball but also for Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Riders. These organizations have bylaws and must be confirmed by The American Legion. If a baseball board has bylaws, they need to be submitted to the parent organization for a review to make sure they align with the parent organization's bylaws.

A question was asked if a team's bylaws referred to a team as a summer program and not as a summer Legion program and have nothing in them referring to Legion baseball. Programs Director Martin discussed that there could be amendments added to mention American Legion Baseball in the bylaws. The team added that they do not want to amend their bylaws. Programs Director Martin stated that those bylaws likely would not be approved by the parent organization. There was a discussion on this, and it was stated that this meeting was simply the beginning of the process and w know there will be more questions and that we will work with Posts and baseball programs to get them answered. Chairman Moeller stated that he did not have a clear picture on how our teams in Nebraska are sponsored so he can have conversations with the national baseball committee and national programs manger for baseball. That is why we sent out the survey, to try to get an

idea of how our teams are managed and to share that with national and express our concerns at the program level.

A question was asked from Mt. Michael on what the American Legion would require in terms of bylaws for a 501c3 that include Legion programs. Programs Director Martin shared that the department has been working with an attorney that specializes in non-profit organizations and would follow-up on this question. One example was senior and junior Legion teams and also a reserve team that is not Legion. Raising funds as a single entity and using them as needed.

A question was asked by Millard Sox about their six teams with two seniors, two juniors and two reserve teams under one bank account and how that would affect them? Programs Director Martin will add this to the previous follow-up question.

Programs Director Martin read Rule #3:

**"Reports" - The program will provide to the parent organization: (a) monthly activities reports; (b) quarterly financial reports; (c) an annual financial statement; and (d) any additional report(s) requested by the parent organization.**

Programs Director Martin discussed an option, if possible, would be to have a Post member at the meetings as a guest or liaison and they could provide the reports back to the Post at a scheduled meeting.

A question was asked by Lincoln that baseball teams are seasonal (May through August) and would not have reports to give each month. Teams are concerned that they may not be allowed to participate due to not providing 12 monthly reports. He agrees with providing financial reports with income and expenses. Programs Director Martin stated that there is not one way to provide reports to be compliant. These Four Rules are general, and some programs may meet monthly (SAL or ALR) and others may be seasonal and the reporting to the parent organization may be adjusted.

A question was asked if Posts will be audited for their compliance with management of the Four Rules. If a Post tells the baseball program to keep doing what you have been doing for the players. Programs Director Martin discussed at the department level, our responsibility is to share with Post Commanders information such as the Four Rules and offer suggestions on compliance. We are looking to get baseball programs and Post Commanders to have conversations to discuss compliance with the Four Rules and can assist in sharing contact information to both sides to start these conversations. Chairman Moeller added that he agrees that this is not a point-for-point way that everyone has to do it the same way. If the baseball program has a good relationship with the Post and they are

aware of your finances, how you select board members etc, how you move forward will be up to you.

Programs Director Martin read Rule #4:

**"Controls" -The parent organization may provide the program with the employer identification number (EIN) and the tax-exemption status, with the necessary financial controls over their usage. All program financial accounts must have a minimum of two (2) signatories appointed by the parent organization.**

Programs Director Martin read from the form that "The American Legion's most prized possessions are its name, emblem and logo. Its century of existence has built an environment of respect around those three things. Protecting those prized possessions is necessary to ensure that the environment of respect remains in place." We know that there are several different types of structures that baseball programs fall under. Some are fully managed by the Legion Post, some are sponsored by the Post and also by other financial donors and then there are those that are sponsored by the Post by name only and all finances are through financial donors.

Creighton Prep shared what their interpretation of the Four Rules and how he sees that these Four Rules would impact his program. He looked at how it seems that legion Posts have been or are looking to become more involved with the baseball program. He sees that these Four Rules will come down to how they are interpreted. He sees the intent whether we have a baseball organization that goes through the Post, outside the Post, have a private sponsor, or have no sponsor and are self-funding, are still representing American Legion Baseball and their image. We have to abide by their rules on honor that as each program does. He lists the senior and junior team and also his reserve program as they represent the likeness of American Legion Baseball. His interpretation for rule 3, is that once you have spoken with Post on how you pick your board members under Rule 1 and how you decide to spend your money under rule 2. Rule 3 comes in as a checks and balance of the Legion Baseball program. If the Post feels or hears something that is a concern, he believes that the Post has a right to ask us for something since we are under their umbrella. If the Post would like to see something, we can provide it for them. He feels that the Post may not want it every month and may just simply file it. When it comes to Rule 4, we have to have our own personal checks and balances. Two people that can write out the checks, make sure the bills are paid, fill out the tax forms, to ensure they check on each other. The members that are doing this need to have their names approved by the Legion Post. He's not sure if this is right or wrong, but how he interprets Rule 4. Chairman Moeller added that is how he interprets rule 4 and the Post approving signatories within the baseball program.

Has experienced in the past with Posts that they have a hard time finding enough volunteers to support our programs. Is looking at how all of our teams would be affected with these Four Rules and taking that information back to national and sharing with them on how baseball teams will be affected. He restated that these Four Rules are what we have to work with right now and will be enforced and use the time before the beginning of the season to try to make some changes.

Lincoln shared that he sent out an email to baseball programs and his interpretations of the Four Rules with an example letter from the Department Commander and the previous version of the Four Rules signed by the National Judge Advocate and that it feels like only by Lincoln teams and maybe Nebraska. Lincoln asked Chairman Moeller if all states would be following these Four Rules and Chairman Moeller answered probably not. Lincoln's reply was then we're not either. Programs Director Martin addressed the statement that this is a Nebraska thing only. We can't speak to other departments, and we know what the right answer is. We would be putting the Nebraska American Legion Charter in jeopardy if we knowingly ignored the Four Rules. Our goal here is to get everyone together and share some ideas on how to follow these Four Rules. It is going to look different for each baseball program and our job at the department is to ensure that the Posts have all the information to make decisions. We have sent recommendations to the national office on ways to add these Four Rules to the registration process for all departments to follow since these are national rules. Lincoln did share that 31 of 32 teams said that they would not abide to Rule 4, what do you say to that? Programs Director Martin thanked everyone for their participation in American Legion Baseball and how this program helps influence young people to be better citizens through our purpose and scope of American Legion Baseball. I would ask baseball programs to reach out to the Post and have a conversation with them. In most of our travels when asked to assist a program, communication between the Post and baseball program has failed and our goal is to work on bringing that back. In my conversations with Post Commanders, it is not their wish or intent to take money from the baseball program. It was asked then why give them an opportunity to do so as a signatory to a baseball account? Programs Director Martin asked for everyone to look at it through the eyes of the national office and understand a need to have safeguards in place to protect our brand.

Columbus shared their relationship with Post 84 and that they love to be informed. We attend a Post meeting and share with them baseball updates and share a beer. Post members come to the field to volunteer and be around the players. We use veterans to impress principals upon the players. The more we can have veterans involved with the teams, the more ability we have to create positive teams that do things the right way. As a coach, what a great resource to have behind you. Chairman Moeller thanked Columbus for

sharing that and if there is a message on the Four Rules it is to get the Legion Post back involved with baseball. It makes baseball so much easier.

A question was asked on the form it states that “if one or more of these rules is violated, National will need to enforce intellectual property rights against the organization that caused the violation.” Can you expand on that and who makes the decision on that? Programs Director Martin shared that the national office is not going to be “investigating” Posts on the Four Rules. It starts at the Post level and working with them to define and agree on what compliance looks like with these Four Rules. As a department, we would not require how the Four Rules are being followed, but simply through a checkbox on a team registration page or by a signed copy of the Four Rules with Acknowledgement. The baseball programs concern is will the national make the decision. It seems like much of this is a judgement decision if we are following these rules and then someone comes in with a different interpretation and judgement. Programs Director Martin stated that when the baseball program and Post agree to the interpretation of the Four Rules and what needs to be compliant, that’s where it ends. No other Post can come in and say that you are doing it wrong.

A question was asked if we wanted an email on how each team is set up and Chairman Moeller did ask for teams to email that information to him.

Lincoln asked what we would recommend as a Post sponsor for Post 3 and if they are back being allowed to sponsor a team. Chairman Moeller shared that the committee did not take an action against Post 3 but adopted the national rule on sponsorship. We were told that many Lincoln teams would not play Legion baseball if a particular member was part of Post 3. We sponsored Lincoln teams under Post 500 and offered relief to those teams for 2025. A follow-up was asked if Lincoln should be sending documents to Post 3 now and Chairman Moeller recommended that we have a discussion on where Lincoln teams will play in 2026.

Kearney had a question on compliance with the Four Rules and as long as the Post agrees that baseball programs are complying, no one from the department of national is going to come in and override that? Programs Director Martin stated that we would look at the acknowledgement form being signed by both the Post and baseball program and that compliance is being carried out and managed. We are happy to work with Post Commanders and have discussions on how to manage the Four Rules.

A question was asked on sponsorship of teams and where a team can be sponsored from. Can any team be sponsored by any Post? Programs Director Martin shared the importance of community involvement and challenges that some programs may have if they do not

have an active Post in their community. For those that find themselves struggling with their local Posts, we encourage you to reach out to the Athletic Committee and let your Area Rep know what some concerns and we can help mediate conversations between the Post and the baseball program.

Papillion asked if these Four Rules are new and if they were mentioned before? Programs Director Martin shared that these Four Rules had been discussed in the End of Season Meeting in September 2024, Coaches/Managers Meeting in January 2025 and at the End of Season Meeting in September 2025. The Four Rules have been posted on our website and also were mailed to all Post Commanders and Post Adjutants. Follow-up question from Papillion was if these Four Rules are listed in C&BLs or other programs. Resolution 1 dated May 10, 2018, is the governing rule for rules and regulations governing use of name and emblem.

Chairman Moller went over some highlights and highly encourage you to establish contact with your Post which is the base of everything discussed here. If you have any questions, send me an email or to Eric at the department office. Chairman Moeller continuously has conversations with national, and we want out feedback with them to be accurate and that information comes from the baseball programs. We can set up a follow-up Zoom call soon to discuss any new information.

Programs Director Martin thanked everyone for attending this meeting and to reach out in the upcoming weeks with any questions.

Meeting ended at 6:49 pm.