



The American Legion Columbia County Post 57
2602 SW Main BLVD
Lake City, FL 32025

POLICY 1 - HOUSE RULES

A. Post 57 House - The Post Home is for the use of current members of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary members.

B. Canteen or Post 57 Legion Functions in the Big Hall where alcohol will be served - Members that are 21 years or older may enter the Canteen and bring their guests that are 21 years or older. Members or guests may bring their children who are less than 18 years old but are required to have their children less than 18 years old leave before 9:00 pm. No person under the age of 21 may sit at the bar. Members are reminded that each time they enter the Members Canteen or Post 57 Legion Function in the Big Hall where alcohol will be served (such as a dance) they are required to show a current American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, or American Legion Auxiliary membership card. The Canteen Manager will direct the bartender on duty to check for current membership cards and to have guests signed in properly in the canteen logbook. The Canteen Manager or other Post 57 Officer in Charge of the function will direct others to help in identifying current members as the need arises. The bartender on duty working in the Lounge may waive checking a membership card upon entry into the Canteen or upon purchasing an alcoholic drink if the bartender on duty knows that this member has a current paid up membership at Post 57.

C. Guests - Guests who enter the Canteen or a Post 57 Legion Function in the Big Hall where alcohol will be served (such as a dance) are to be signed in each time by a current member they come with and may only remain while the member is present. The member is responsible for the conduct of their guest.

D. Payment of Drinks - When members who are 21 years or older purchase an alcoholic drink, they may be required to show their current membership card to the bartender on duty. The bartender on duty may waive checking the card upon purchasing an alcoholic drink if the bartender on duty knows that this member has a current paid up membership at Post 57. Payment for alcoholic drinks may be made **ONLY** by current members. Alcoholic beverages may be served **ONLY** to current members and their guests who are 21 years or older. No one under the age of 21 is allowed to order anything from the bar. No one under the age of 21 is allowed to sit or stand at the bar.

E. Absolutely NO Drinks to Go - No alcoholic drinks are allowed to leave the property of American Legion Post 57. No person may bring alcoholic beverages onto the property of American Legion Post 57 or into the buildings of The American Legion Post 57. Alcoholic beverages may be consumed in the smoking room on the north side of the building. Alcoholic beverages may be served and consumed on the west side of the building during special outdoor events only.

F. Smoking - The building of The American Legion Post 57 to include the Big Hall, Canteen, Meeting Rooms, and Offices are non-smoking. Smoking is ONLY authorized in the smoking room on the north side of the building or under the metal patio on the west parking lot.

G. Dress Code - Ladies and gentlemen attending Post 57 Legion or Auxiliary Functions at the Post Home should dress appropriately and in good taste. When attending evening functions such as a dinner, dance, or other function, members and their guests should wear attire that is respectful, always remembering that we represent the American Legion and their families and have functions that represent youth and patriotism. Shoes and shirts are required to be worn according to sanitary laws of the State of Florida.

H. Suspension of Privileges - The Executive Committee of The American Legion Columbia County Post 57, Inc. has granted authority to the Post Commander, Vice Commander in Charge, the House Chairman, the Canteen Manager, the Kitchen Manager, or an Officer in Charge of a function to act in an emergency to temporarily suspend a member's social privileges for a violation of the House Rules or other disorderly or unlawful conduct to include vulgar or abusive language or threats. If necessary, a Columbia County Deputy Sheriff may be called to the Post Home to file a report. The member (American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, or American Legion Auxiliary) will appear before the next regularly scheduled meeting of the American Legion Post 57 Executive Committee for action upon complaint. All Post members are reminded that they are responsible for the conduct and behavior of their guests.

I. Bingo Conducted at Post 57 Facilities in the Big Hall - The public may attend and participate in any Bingo Session at Columbia County American Legion Post 57. The Bingo Sessions shall be conducted according to Florida law and no one less than 18 years of age shall be allowed into the Big Hall during Bingo. No alcoholic beverages may be brought into the Big Hall or Kitchen when Bingo Sessions are being conducted. Under Florida law, any organization conducting Bingo that is open to the public may refuse entry to any person who is objectionable or undesirable to the sponsoring organization, but such refusal of entry shall not be based on race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, or physical disability.

J. Suspension of Privileges of Play Bingo in the Big Hall - The Executive Committee of The American Legion Columbia County Post 57, Inc. has granted authority to the Post Commander, Vice Commander in Charge, the Canteen Manager, The House Chairman, The Bingo Chairman, or a Member in Charge of a Bingo Session, to act in an emergency to temporarily suspend a player's bingo privileges for a violation of the House Rules or other disorderly or unlawful conduct to include vulgar or abusive language or threats. If necessary a Columbia County Deputy Sheriff may be called to the Post Home to file a report. The person will be escorted off the property of The American Legion Columbia County Post 57 and will be advised that they must appear before the next regularly scheduled meeting of The American Legion Executive Committee for action upon the complaint. Failure to appear at said meeting will result in the person not being allowed onto the property or into the facilities of The American Legion Columbia County Post 57.

K. Use of Force and Incidents at the Post - The Post 57 Executive Committee does not authorize or condone the use of force during a disturbance. It is the policy of the Post that if anyone present at the Post perceives an incident to be an emergency, whether they are a visitor, guest, member, employee, or Post Officer, if safely able, immediately contact the government of Columbia County by calling 911. When the operator asks what the emergency is, the caller should provide the location in case they become disconnected then give as much information as possible concerning the emergency. The caller should fully cooperate, answer all questions, comply with all instructions and respond to any requests. The appropriate emergency services will be dispatched to be enroute to the post. Upon arrival, the caller and Post patrons should continue to cooperate without interfering. A Post Officer or Post Employee does not have any authority to take physical action out of the defined rules of their position. Anyone acting outside their authority and the scope of this policy relinquishes their connection to the Post during the incident and does so as a private citizen, not as an agent of this Post and are completely subject to the ramifications of Florida Law.

On behalf of the Executive Committee

Approved and signed this 21st day of April, 2026



Bill Huggins
Commander Post 57



David Mangrum
Judge Advocate, Post 57