



GEORGE WALTON POST 371

CANTEEN/HOUSE RULES

To insure a SAFE and INVITING canteen environment for all of our members, the following Canteen Rules are required to be followed at all times, as agreed upon by the Post 371 Executive Board. The Bar Chairperson and/or Bar Manager reserve the right to deviate from these rules as required. A separate binder with these Rules will be maintained behind the Bar for bartender and patron review.

Overview

- The canteen operates primarily as a haven of rest and relaxation for American Legion Veterans, American Legion support organizations, and their families and guests.
- Post 371 canteen operates under New Jersey ABC Club liquor license which authorizes the sale of beer, wine, and distilled spirits to members and accompanied guests only, for consumption on the premises.
- The Bartender on duty is the Person-in-Charge (PIC). Their decisions enforcing the canteen rules are final and cannot be overruled by Post Officers or Post Members while the bartender is on duty. In accordance with NJ ABC Rules and Regulations, they are responsible for the safety and well-being of their patrons, and can be held liable for any mishaps.

Disagreement with their decision must be filed in writing within 48 hours to the Commander via the Bar Manager. The commander will review the facts and render a decision on whether to uphold or overrule the bartender's decision.

- Bartender (PIC) is authorized and has the duty to call 911 for assistance with any emergency whether it is medical, fire, or physical violence pertaining to incidents in the Canteen.
- This document defines the Post 371 Canteen Rules deemed necessary to maximize the enjoyment of its patrons while facilitating compliance with all ABC Regulations and Procedures.

1. The following shall be admitted to the canteen

A. Members

- All Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion members of Post 371 in good standing, with an active, current-year membership card. “Good standing” is defined as a member that is (1) not on suspension, and (2) paid-up dues.

Non-members spouses of “members in good standing” are considered members for canteen purposes only, i.e.: may visit the canteen without their spouse; participate in the \$3 book, play in the in-house pool league, etc. Non-member spouses’ canteen privileges are at the pleasure of their member spouse.

B. Guests

- Significant others, friends, and family members of Post 371 members.
- A Member in good standing can sponsor up to nine (9) Guest(s). The Member will be responsible for their Guest(s) and their actions while in the Canteen and on Post Property.
- All guests must leave the canteen when their Member sponsor leaves.
- Guests who are eligible for membership in any of the three (3) venues of Membership (Legionnaire, Auxiliary, SAL) cannot be invited to the Canteen more than three (3) times in one calendar year. EXCEPTION: immediate family members.

C. Visiting Legion Members / Others who are welcomed.

- Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL Members, and Legion Riders of other Posts, possessing a current membership card.
- Members with an active, current year membership card from other Veteran/Military organizations (i.e.: VFW, DAV, etc.).
- Active members of the U.S. Military with proper identification.

➤ *Visiting Members will comply with all “Canteen Rules and Regulations” as they pertain to our own Post and its Members.*

D. Verification of membership or identification.

- If Bartender on duty does not recognize patrons as being a member or guests, they are obligated to ask for verification of membership or identification. Verification of membership is a “valid and current membership card” from the Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, or the American Legion.

2. Service Refusal

- Bartenders may refuse service to anyone for any violation of Canteen Rules.
 - Bartenders may refuse service to anyone they feel is detrimental to a Safe and Inviting canteen environment.
 - Bartenders will refuse to serve alcohol to anyone who is obviously intoxicated, as REQUIRED by NJ ABC rules and regulations.
- *Any person giving alcohol beverages to a person that has been “cut off” by the Bartender shall forfeit their remaining drink(s) and both individuals must leave the premises.*

3. Disorderly Conduct

Unacceptable behavior on the premises of American Legion Post 371 can generally be described as that which is socially unacceptable conduct in any public establishment.

- Bartenders on duty (PIC) will require persons in the Canteen to conduct themselves in accordance with these rules. A copy of this document will be available for any patron to review.
- The Bartender is authorized to expel any person for any infraction of these rules, and Canteen privileges will automatically be suspended for the remainder of the day and the next 24 hours to anyone engaging in Disorderly Conduct.
 - a. The Bartender will submit a Canteen Incident Report to the Post Commander via the Bar Manager for consideration by the Executive Committee. They will make a decision on the length of suspension resulting from Disorderly Conduct.
 - b. The subject of the Incident Report can appeal to the Executive Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.
 - c. The Judge Advocate will notify the person being suspended in writing as to the reason and dates of the suspension.
 - d. The method in which the person suspended received that notification will be documented and a copy of that notification will be given to the Post Adjutant and Bar Manager.

4. General Conduct and Behavior

- NO Physical Violence of any kind will be tolerated. This will be considered a criminal assault and will result in immediate suspension from the Post property. The Executive Board will determine further action.
- NO provoking, instigating, or inciting any form of violence. This will be considered conduct unbecoming of a Legion Member and is grounds for suspension. The Executive Board will determine further action.
- NO harassing or intimidation of other members or their guest(s). This will be considered conduct unbecoming of a Legion Member and is grounds for suspension. The Executive Board will determine further action.
- NO loud, boisterous or profane language.
- NO bigoted or racist remarks.
- NO rowdiness, or abusive language, or any other disruptive conduct.
- NO sexual harassment or sexual remarks as defined by NJ law.
- NO personal attacks in respect to sex, race, creed, religion or personal lifestyle.
- NO disrespecting, harassing or interfering with the Bartender(s) on duty.
- NO political discussions at the bar during the Presidential election season.

If, at other times, in the opinion of the Bartender (PIC), political discussions become loud, threatening, or annoying to other patrons, the Bartender has the right to stop the discussions.

- Anyone removing, damaging or destroying property of the American Legion shall pay for the damages and face charges before the Executive Board.
- *In the judgment of the bartender (PIC), any Member or Guest engaging in such behavior and using such language will be refused service and be required to leave.*

5. Dress Code

For safety reasons, all persons 'SHALL' wear some type of shoes at all times.

- Men - Cutoffs, shorts, sandals, t-shirts, tank tops are acceptable attire in the canteen. No bathing suits. Undergarments worn as outer garments prohibited.
 - Women - Cutoffs, shorts, sandals, t-shirts, tank tops are acceptable attire in the canteen. Undergarments worn as outer garments are prohibited. No bathing suits. No short-shorts (where the buttocks is exposed) and no tube tops. No see-through attire is allowed unless worn with appropriate undergarment.
 - Political Attire - Shirts, hats and other attire supporting or opposing any presidential candidate or political party are prohibited in the Canteen.
 - NO shirts, shorts, or any other attire that has obscene gestures, profane printing or writing will be allowed. That person will be required to leave the canteen and Post 371 premises immediately.
 - Any item of clothing that is disrespectful to our National Flag, another person or other national symbols are forbidden to be worn. That person will be required to leave the canteen and Post 371 premises immediately.
 - Wearing of American Legion and Post 371 Legion attire is HIGHLY encouraged.
- *SERVICE WILL BE REFUSED TO ANYONE THAT DOES NOT MEET THE MINIMUM DRESS STANDARDS AND THEY MUST LEAVE THE CANTEEN.*

6. Members/Guest Behind The Bar

- Only the Bar Manager, Bartender on duty, and necessary adult personnel "authorized" by them, are permitted behind the bar during Canteen hours.

7. Alcoholic Beverages On/Off Premises

- No alcoholic beverages shall be removed from the canteen at any time except for special events authorized by the Commander.
- No "outside" alcoholic beverages may be brought in to the Canteen by patrons at any time.

8. Smoking

- No smoking or vaping is allowed in the Canteen or within 20' of the entrance.

9. Firearms

- Under no circumstances will there be any firearms allowed in the Canteen or on the Post 371 property, EXCEPT sworn Police Officers on duty.

10. Illegal Drugs

- The use of illegal drugs as defined by NJ law is prohibited within the perimeter under the control of George Walton Post 371 including indoor and outdoor areas. Offenders may be reported to the proper authorities.

11. Animals

- Animals are not allowed inside the Canteen during operational hours.

The “Sole Exception” to this Rule is specially trained Dogs (and any other animals which are recognized under the “Americans with Disabilities Act” (ADA)) which have been assigned to assist a physically/mentally handicapped person.

12. Cash Only

- Checks/Credit Cards/Debit Cards are NOT accepted. CASH only. Bar tabs are not permitted unless authorized by the Commander.

For your convenience there is an ATM in the Canteen.

13. Minors

- Our NJ ABC Club liquor license allows minors, persons under the age of 18 years, to be in the canteen. Post 371 carries this definition further and defines an under-18 minor (up to their 18th birthday) and an over-18 minor (over 18, but under 21). Post 371 allows minors in the Canteen under the following conditions:

a. Rules for Under-18 Minors

- Any guest under 18 must be accompanied by an adult, or have an adult member present to represent them (Guardian).
- Under -18 minors are not allowed to sit at the bar after 7pm.
- Any member buying or giving an under-18 minor an alcoholic beverage will immediately forfeit their membership and be suspended for life from George Walton Post 371.

- Any guest buying or giving an alcoholic beverage to an under-18 minor will be barred for life from the premises of George Walton Post 371.
- The Guardian is fully responsible for the conduct of the Under-18 Minor at all times and both the Minor and the Guardian are subject to all of the Canteen Rules.

b. Rules for Over-18 Minors

- Any person over 18 but under 21 who is otherwise authorized to be in the Club as a member or guest may not drink or be served alcoholic beverages.
- Any member buying or giving an over-18 minor an alcoholic beverage will immediately forfeit their membership and be suspended for life from George Walton Post 371.
- Any guest buying or giving an alcoholic beverage to an over-18 minor will be barred for life from the premises of George Walton Post 371.

14. Complaints

- All complaints regarding any aspect of the Canteen operation shall be brought to the attention of the Bar Chairperson or the Bar Manager.
- The Bartender on duty shall use their discretion to interpret these rules as the PIC, and they shall report only to the Bar Chairperson or Bar Manager for guidance.
- Disputes and complaints are to be reviewed by the Executive Board. The findings and the decisions of the Executive Board will be forwarded to the Bar Manager to be implemented.

Adopted and approved by Post 371 Executive Board on this 4th day of September, 2024.

Signed Date: 9-4-24
Allen Cox, Adjutant

Signed Date: 9-4-24
Howard Secrest, Commander