

American Legion Baseball 2014



Rules and Regulations



Certified Teams 2014 Department of Illinois

The 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

2014
AMERICAN LEGION
Baseball Teams



Department of Illinois

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AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

RULES AND REGULATIONS

2014

The rules printed herein shall apply to the Illinois American Legion Senior Legion, Junior Legion and Prep Legion Baseball programs in Illinois. Competition shall be played under rules set forth and adopted by The American Legion Baseball Committee, to be eligible to compete in The American Legion Baseball Program, all Leagues and Teams must abide by these rules. Failure to abide by these rules will result in immediate disqualification.

American Legion Baseball competition shall be played under rules set forth and adopted by the National Americanism Commission. The American Legion, National Headquarters, 700 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, and as permissibly amended by The American Legion Baseball Committee, Department of Illinois. All teams in the Department of Illinois, Senior, Junior, and Prep must file a registration form showing proof of insurance and pay a fee of \$50.00 (Seniors) and \$25.00 (Juniors) and \$25.00 (Preps) to National and \$25.00 for each team to Department of Illinois.

Registration should be done at www.legion.org/baseball/213292/register-now-2014-legion-baseball-season and should be completed by May 15.

Every American Legion Baseball team (Senior, Junior and Prep) must purchase both group liability and accident insurance from The American Legion's agent of record (S.A. Van Dyk, Inc.). Coverage must be purchased on or before May 15. Failure to pay the insurance by May 15 will result in a \$200 penalty with that fine going to the Department of Illinois Baseball Committee. Failure to pay your insurance by June 1 will result in disqualification for the season. Beginning in 2013, the Legion began implementing a background screening/monitoring program for coaches, managers and volunteer staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball teams. Interpretations/Questions concerning who needs to complete a background check should be directed to the department chairman. Pursuant to the guidelines issued under Resolution 16 and the updated background screen guide issued December 17, 2013 from the National Americanism Committee a decision will be rendered. The respective division chairman from the division the interpretation/question came from will consult with the Department Chairman. He will make a recommendation to the Department Baseball Committee. Their decision will be final. It is recommended that all managers/coaches/volunteers who interact directly with the players read and review the Risk Management Policies of our program (especially pages 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15) available online at this link - <http://www.legion.org/publications/212564/risk-management-policies-baseball>

RULE 1 - PLAYING REGULATIONS

All games shall be played under Official Rules-Major League Baseball to (as published by Triumph Books, Inc), except as follows:

- A. Teams (players, coaches and managers) must be in alike uniforms (Caps, Shirts, Pants) upon reaching District, Division, Department and National championship play, at which time:
 - 1. Coaches must wear a helmet to be on the field. A hard helmet is required; no-flap, single flap, and double flap helmets are permitted, while "sullies" and cap inserts are not permitted.

During AMERICAN LEGION Baseball sanctioned events, if a coach comes out to his position without a helmet (as if to begin an inning), the umpire should direct the coach to put on a helmet immediately.

If the coach does not immediately move to comply with the umpire's direction, the individual is to be ejected from the game.

2. During AMERICAN LEGION Baseball tournaments, until a batted ball passes a coach, a coach is not permitted to position himself closer to home plate than the coach's box nor closer to fair territory than the coach's box.

The umpire shall instruct a coach who is not in accordance with this rule to position themselves on an acceptable position immediately.

If the coach does not immediately comply with the umpire's direction, the individual is to be ejected from the game.

3. Players, coaches and managers are required to have American Legion emblem ironed on or sewn on their left sleeve or left chest of uniform. However if you purchase uniforms from Wilson Sporting Goods (official license provider), you may buy Wilson uniforms with American Legion sublimated emblem already affixed. To order Wilson uniforms with emblem, visit your local sporting good dealer and request Wilson by name. If you purchase caps from Richardson (official license provider), you may buy Richardson caps with American Legion sublimated emblem already affixed. To order Richardson caps with emblem, visit your local sporting goods dealer and request Richardson by name.
 4. The American Legion Baseball Insignia must be worn on the left sleeve or left breast of the uniform shirt. Any player, coach or manager who violates this rule will be removed from the game, a coach or manager may wear outerwear over their uniform shirt provided The ALB Insignia is displayed on either the Left sleeve or Left chest of outerwear. ***PENALTY: ANY COACH, MANAGER OR PLAYER THAT DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THIS RULE SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE GAME UNTIL THEY COMPLY WITH THE RULE.***
 5. The front of the uniform shirt may carry lettering or wording that identifies the Post, Department, town, city, community or sponsor which the team represents.
 6. A number at least six inches high must be carried on the back of the uniform shirt.
- B.** Only Form #1 registered players or coaches in uniform of the team are permitted on the coaching lines. Coaches and players must be in a like uniform while in District, Division, Department and National competition in order to go on the playing field, unless emergency appointment approved by Tournament Director. All bat boys or girls must be **TWELVE YEARS OLD**, or older, to be in the dugout. Only one bat boy or girl in the dugout at one time. Must wear official head gear protection.
- C.** Under no circumstances will any team be required to play more than two games in any one day. Playing days will begin at 8:00 A.M. local time. A game suspended the previous day does not count as one of these two games. A team may be required to complete the suspended game and still play two (2) additional complete games on the same day.
- D.** All players are required to wear a double-flapped, ear protective helmet while batting, running the bases or on deck. All batting helmets must meet the NOCSAE specifications and bear the NOCSAE STAMP on the outside of the helmet. Bat boys or girls must wear a double-flapped, ear-protective helmet while on the playing field at all times. Catchers must wear some type of safety helmet, protective cup, and mask with an extended metal throat protector at least two (2) inches in length. (If built-in throat protector is less than two inches, then mask must be or out of the bullpen. Any player refusing to do so will not be permitted to continue play. This rule applies to all American Legion Baseball games.
- E.** No player in regular season or post-season competition may pitch more than 12 innings or make more than **four (4)** appearances as a pitcher in combining the total innings or appearances in any three (3) consecutive days. Playing day will begin At 8:00 A.M. local time. **SHOULD A DOUBLE OR TRIPLE PLAY CAUSE A PITCHER TO EXCEED THE PERMITTED 12 INNINGS IN THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE DAYS, THAT ACTION IN AND OF ITSELF, FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS RULE SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A VIOLATION OF THE RULE. (See Rule 6 - Junior Teams for Pitching Rule for Junior Pitching)**

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1. It shall be the duty of the official scorer or Tournament Director to notify the Umpire-In-Chief when a pitcher has only three innings of eligibility remaining.
An appearance on the mound will be governed by playing regulations.
 2. Any pitcher may be removed as a pitcher and still remain in the game at another position. However, if that pitcher is removed automatically by a second appearance to the mound by the coach in the same inning, that pitcher cannot return as a pitcher in that game. PENALTY: Forfeiture of game if protest is filed with umpires before last out of game.
- F. All Tournament games in District, Division and Department will be played as double elimination.
- G. All Tournament games in the District, Division and Department, shall be nine (9) inning games.
All Junior Division games and Tournaments shall be seven (7) innings. In the event a game is suspended due to inclement weather or other reason, the game shall be resumed where interrupted, retaining its place in the Tournament schedule, and continued until nine (9) innings (*Senior*), seven (7) innings for (Junior and Prep). (*Also, see Rule 1 - Q. 10-Run Rule*). Department Tournament game length may be changed by Department Committee because of weather conditions.
1. All teams must compete in District and Division Tournaments including the host team in order to be eligible for the Department Tournament.
 2. **A Coach or Manager shall list the last names and uniform numbers of all players, including non-starters on the line-up cards.**
- H. All District and Division Tournament games shall have at least two (2) competent umpires. The Department Tournament shall require three (3) competent umpires for each game.
- I. **All teams, both Senior and Junior, must be covered by group accident and liability insurance, And, the insurance must be purchased from The American Legion's agent of record, the S.A. Van Dyk Co., Oak Brook, IL**
1. **Insurance coverage must be for the entire season. The season begins with the first day of tryouts, first practice or June 1, whichever comes first.**
 2. **Any team which fails to purchase insurance from S.A, Van Dyk Co. by June 1 of this year shall be disqualified from any further competition. The Commander of a post failing to purchase insurance by June 1 will be notified of their team's suspension by their Division Baseball Chairman.**
 3. **American Legion Baseball Insurance provides coverage for all players who try out for a team , practice with a team or play in a preseason game; however, once the regular season has begun, only those players listed on the national electronic roster shall be covered.**
- J. Teams shall, at all games, carry Appropriate first aid kits
- K. Bat Rule (*SEE NATIONAL RULE BOOK*)
- L. On deck equipment: Only bats may be used in warming up in the on deck area or in any other location. Weighted bats, devices designed to attach to and remain part of the bat, such as weights or wind-resistant foils are permitted. Sledge hammers, weighted pipes and other heavy paraphernalia are not permitted. Safety of other players and spectators is paramount. Unsafe devices cannot be used.
- M. The use of any form of tobacco by a player, coach, manager or umpire while on the playing field is prohibited. Any violation of this rule will cause the individual to be removed from the game. For the purposes of this rule, dugouts, player's bench, and bullpens will also be considered part of the playing field.
- N. **BLOOD RULE:** Any player who suffers laceration or where the wound is oozing blood, the game shall be stopped at the earliest possible time and the athlete treated immediately. If the bleeding requires extensive treatment, a substitute shall replace the injured player. (*Umpires are directed to give a reasonable amount of time to allow treatment of the injured player.*)

O. COLLISION RULE: The American Legion National Baseball Subcommittee is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions with the catcher at home plate, and with Infielders at all bases. The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid collisions whenever possible.

1. When there is a collision between a runner and fielder who clearly **is in possession** of the ball, the umpire shall judge:
 - a. Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (*could the runner have reached the base without colliding*) or unavoidable (*the runner's path to the base was blocked*) or
 - b. Whether the runner actually was attempting to reach the base (*plate*) or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder.

PENALTY —If the runner, a) could have avoided the collision and reached the base, or b) attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

Ruling 1: If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the base (*plate*), the runner may make contact, slide into, or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base or plate

Ruling 2: If the collision by the runner was (*flagrant*), the runner shall be declared out and ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead.

2. If the defensive player blocks the base (*plate*) or base line **clearly without the ball**, or is not in the immediate act of catching the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a **delayed dead ball** shall be called.

Ruling 1: If the runner collides flagrantly, he shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.

MALICIOUS CONTACT: The National Baseball Sub-committee is concerned that some coaches may not have explained to their players that malicious contact is illegal. The majority of intentional collisions occur at home plate where the catcher is blocking the plate. Runners should be instructed to slide directly to the plate, or away from the catcher, to avoid making contact with the catcher, especially specially when the defender is in possession of the ball. Any player who, in the judgment of the umpire, maliciously runs into another player is automatically ejected, and is declared out. Our Tournament umpires have been instructed that if there is any intentional and excessive force, or if there is any intent to injure another player, the offending player shall be removed from the game. Malicious contact penalty will be enforced whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. **Any player ejected by an umpire, is automatically removed from the National Tournament, unless that player is reinstated by the National Tournament Director.**

P. FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE: The intent of the force-play slide rule is to ensure the safety of the defensive player. This is a safety, as well as an interference rule. This rule pertains to a force-play situation regardless of the number of outs.

1. On a force-play at any base, including home plate, the runner must slide on the ground and in direct line between the two bases. This is a legal slide even if contact is made with the fielder.
 - a. On the ground either can be a head-first slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground.
 - b. Directly into a base means the runner's entire body (*feet, legs, trunk and arms*) must stay in a straight line between the bases. (*A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the individual slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the defensive player*)

2. Contact is allowed if the runner:
 - a. Makes a legal slide directly to the base, or
 - b. Is on the ground at the time of contact and the fielder moves directly down the line between the two bases to attempt a play. Interference **shall not be called.**
3. It is an illegal slide if:
 - a. The runner slides or runs out of the base line in the direction of the fielder;
 - b. The runner uses a rolling, cross-body or pop-up slide into a fielder. (*A pop-up slide is a legal slide as long as the runner does not make contact with, or alter the play of the fielder.*)
 - c. The runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position.
 - d. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg, or
 - e. The slide is flagrant. (*If the runner's slide is flagrant, the individual shall be ejected from the game.*)
4. If the runner, on a force-play, makes an illegal slide at any base, including home plate, interference shall be called.

PENALTY— **With less than two outs, the batter-runner, as well as the interfering runner, shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance. With two outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.**

- Q. 10-RUN RULE:** All Division, Department and National tournament games shall utilize a 10-run limit rule after seven innings, unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 6½ innings. This rule also applies to the Junior and Prep teams except the innings completed would be 4½ if the home team was ahead.
- R. DESIGNATED HITER RULE:** All Division, Department and National tournament play shall utilize the American League designated hitter rule as stated in the Official Rules Major League Baseball (*The rule states that the plate umpire shall be informed as to who will be designated hitter for the pitcher. If the umpire is not informed, then the team will play without a designated hitter/DH.*) **DH Rule applies to both Senior Legion and Junior Legion for regular season and post season games.**
- S.** An Illinois American Legion team is defined as being composed of up to 18 players, a manager, coaches, and the sponsoring Post, all of which are responsible for following Department and National Baseball Rules.

RULE 2 - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIRMENTS

- A.** American Legion Senior Baseball competition in **2014** is open only to **players born on or after JANUARY 1, 1995.** (*A player born before January 1, 1995 is not eligible.*) Any team using over-age players during post-season play will be barred from further competition.

Graduated Students: Players/students who graduated from high school in 2013 shall have additional eligibility restrictions.

- a. Players who graduated in 2013 shall play for The American Legion team they played for during the 2013 season. Players who graduated in 2013 shall not be eligible to be transferred (Form 76 or Form 77) and their names must appear on a 2013 team roster.
1. The parents or court appointed guardian's legal residence establishes a players eligibility. No other form of guardianship accepted

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- a. For the purpose of this rule: A players legal residence is determined by his parents permanent and legal residence.
 - b. In the event that a boys parents are divorced or separated, that player may play for a team of either parents legal and permanent residence. That player must declare in writing the team of his choice and file that decision with the appropriate Department Official, prior to the Department Form #1/Form #2 roster closing date. That decision is final and valid for the remainder of the players eligibility.
 - c. In the event that both parents are deceased, then the players residence will be determined by the permanent address of the legal guardian appointed by the court having jurisdiction to make such an appointment.
 - d. Should a situation arise which is not covered by the provision of this rule, the appropriate Department Baseball Committee member will, in his sole discretion determine the players legal residence for the purpose of his participation in The American Legion Baseball Program.
2. Players competing who are 18 years of age may be signed to a professional baseball contract according to Professional Baseball Rule 3-(i).
 3. The signing of player 17 years of age and under is governed by Professional Baseball Rule 3 - (i).

B Competition is open to amateurs. To be an amateur a player must not

1. Receive money, favors or gratuities, direct or indirect, for playing baseball.
2. Play with or against anyone who receives money, favors or gratuities.
3. Accept money or favors for reimbursement for time lost at work while playing or for expenses incurred while playing.
4. Participate in an All -Star Baseball game not American Legion approved by the appropriate Department Baseball Committee member.
NOTE: Divisions, Districts or Posts planning on an All - Star game should contact the Illinois High School Athletic Association to clarify a players high school eligibility.
5. Be represented by an agent in marketing their athletic ability.
6. Accept pay for the use of their name or picture for advertising of commercial products or services.
7. Accept directly, indirectly or agree to accept money or any favors offered by anyone for their baseball services, past, present or future. This also applies to a player's parents, trustees, guardians, etc.
8. Try out with any professional team without written permission of their American Legion Baseball Coach or Post Commander. (*Professional Baseball Rule 3 - (i) governs tryouts and merits of contracting with Professional Clubs.*)
9. The only exceptions to this rule are college scholarships, such as those awarded by the Department Baseball Committee at Division and Department Tournaments, and those awarded at the National Tournaments by the American Legion.

C. BIRTH CERTIFICATE - Record of birth must be by an original or a certificate document from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or Department of Health or other Governmental Agency authorized to certify birth documents.

1. In case of foreign birth, the player must present a certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service or by the Department of State which shows the birth date of the bearer. Official birth certificates issued by a foreign country are acceptable when accompanied by an English translation.

2. A properly notarized copy of that portion of legal adoption papers showing the place and date of a player's birth shall be acceptable in cases involving foster parents.
3. **The following are never acceptable as legal birth records for American Legion Baseball purposes: Baptismal Certificates, School Certificates or Records, Notarized Copies or Hospital Records or Xerox color copies. There use will disqualify the player and/or team.**
4. Any Post, manager or coach that submits a fraudulent birth certificate or puts an illegal birth date for a player on his team's ALB Form #1 will be suspended indefinitely by the appropriate Division Baseball Chairman, or his committee.

RULE 3 - PLAYER RECRUITING PLAN "A"

Plan "A" recruiting rules are based on zones and are usually designed for large cities or areas where Plan "B" (base school recruiting) would be impractical. Plan "A" rules require a specific area to be drawn on a map. Secondary school enrollments [grades 10, 11 and 12 for both the senior and junior Legion teams] in that area are then added together and divided by 5,000 [enrollment cap] to determine the number of zones within an area. For example, if there are 10,257 students in a specific area, the number, the number is divided by 5,000, which equals 2.05. This will require a minimum of three zones to be established within that area. Players, including emancipated players whose parent's domicile is with a zone, must play for the team in that zone unless properly waived to an adjacent zone. All zoning is subject to approval by the National Americanism Commission.

- A. **ZONING:** Zoning of cities, counties and/or school districts may be requested by a team(s).
 1. The department baseball committee shall review and approve requests for such zoning. It shall be the responsibility of the department baseball committee to forward zone maps for final approval to the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division before April 15, 2014.
 2. A detailed street map showing specific boundaries, as well as the locations and enrollment figures of all high schools, must accompany such requests.
 3. If a team's boundaries are changed, a new map and letter of explanation must be submitted for approval prior to April 15, 2014.
- B. **Player Recruiting:** A post may select players whose parent's domicile was established in their zone on or before March 31, 2014 and players whose parents have moved and established a new domicile in their zone after March 31, 2014.
 1. Players not selected to play with the team in their zone may play for the next nearest Plan A team provided the player has obtained a written transfer (Form #76) from the team manager in their zone.
 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 parents new domicile. A written request must be filed with, and approved by, the department chairman prior to listing the player on the National Form #1. This request must be accompanied by the parent's affidavit stating that the move is permanent and listing the previous and present domicile addresses.
 3. In the event a new team is formed and new zones are established that changes a player's eligibility, those players previously registered on National Form #1 are permitted a one-time option of playing for the team of their old zone or playing for the team of the new zone.
 - a. Zones must be adjacent to each other.
 - b. Transfers are permitted only in the senior program when the combined enrollment of each zone is less than 5,000
 - c. Transfers in the senior or junior program shall be FOR A SINGLE SEASON AND SHALL EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2014.

- d. The department based chairmen must approve all transfers prior to listing the player on the National Form #1.
 - e. A written request for a transfer must be filed with, a approved by, an authorized baseball official prior to listing the player on the National Form #1 (This request must be accompanied by the parent's affidavit stating that the move is permanent and listing the previous and present domicile addresses)
4. A written request must be filed with, and approved by, the department baseball chairman prior to listing the player on the National Form #1.

RULE 4 - PLAYER RECRUITMENT - Plan "B"

- A. All teams must have a base school from which to start their recruiting as approved by the Division Baseball Chairman.
- 1. New teams must declare their base school in writing, prior to March 31. This base school must be approved in writing by the Division Baseball Chairman.
 - 2. No team may recruit a player from another team's base school, however if a player is cut or if he is not asked to play for a team he will be granted a ALB Form #76 waiver by the team manager, to play for the next nearest team.
 - 3. If two or more teams are sponsored by the same American Legion Post, the Division Baseball Chairman will assign base schools.
 - 4. Any change in a base school must be approved, in writing by separate letter to the Division Chairman, prior to January 31 of any year.
 - 5. Any unusual geographic boundaries pertaining to a base school and nearby recruiting areas will be settled by input from all team managers with the final decision resting with the proper Division Baseball Chairman.
- B. Teams may recruit players who are regularly enrolled in any public, parochial, private non-boarding, technical, vocational, regional, or preparatory high school or a combination of these schools, provided that the combined total enrollment of the schools does not exceed 5,000 students or 2,500 if the schools are restricted to all male enrollments. If co-educational schools are combined with all-male enrollment schools, the enrollment must not exceed 5,000 of which no more than 2,500 may be from all-male schools. Players who are enrolled in a "home study" program and do not attend a public, private or parochial school, must play with the base school team nearest his parent's residence.
- C. The school enrollment totals of only the **10th, 11th, and 12th** grades shall be set by the actual enrollment totals recorded on March 31, of this year in the State Board of Education or other STATE or COUNTY agency having jurisdiction over school enrollment. Use only the actual number of students enrolled on Marsh 31 of this year.
- 1. The schools in this combination must be ADJACENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS, For plan A teams)
 - 2. Player's attending school, other than the school of their parent's residence i.e. parochial, private non-boarding, etc., have an option of playing for the base school team nearest the school they attend, or playing for the base school team nearest their parent's legal residence. (For the purpose of clarification, if the parent's residence is located within a base school boundary, that base school is the next nearest team.)
 - a. The players election must be specified on ALB Form #77 as to which team he wishes to play for prior to each District Form #1/Form #2 roster closing date. Each request for election must go first to the District Chairman and then to the Division Chairman for approval. Such election shall be for the 2014 season and shall expire on December 31, 2014.

- b. If they select to play for the team nearest their parent's residence, **the entire enrollment of the school they attend will be counted.** If they select to play for the team nearest their SCHOOL, the enrollment of the school of their residence will not be counted.
 3. Players in grammar schools, middle schools, junior high schools or 9th graders must play for the base school team nearest their legal residence. Enrollment totals of these schools WILL NOT be counted. In arriving at total enrollment listed under high school combinations, players will be considered as "in school" if regularly enrolled on March 31 of this year.
 4. College, University students, and other players who are not in high school **must** play with the American Legion Baseball team for which they last played while in high school.
 5. In areas where a school enrollment exceeds 5,000 students, that team must not recruit from any other source except grammar schools, middle school and junior high schools, or players who qualify under paragraph three (3) above.
 6. If no program is available in the SCHOOL DISTRICT of a player's legal residence, or the school a player attends, that player **must** play with the team nearest his parent's permanent, legal residence. ALB Form #77 must be completed and the enrollment of his school must be counted toward the 5,000 enrollment limit.
- D. WAIVERS:** All players are expected to try out for and to play for the Post base school team nearest their parent's legal residence. A waiver allowing a player to play for the next nearest team to his parents residence is available to a player only under four conditions (1) a player must be cut (released) from the base school team nearest his parents legal residence after trying out; (2) a player whose base school team nearest his parents legal residence does not hold tryouts, and only invites players to play, and he is not asked to play for the team; (3) Players who, in the judgment of their Division Chairman, must travel out of their way to reach the base school team nearest their parents legal residence (such as a river or other barrier which causes excess travel); and (4) players in situations which in the judgment of the Department Baseball Committee warrant a waiver; (5) also, waivers must be in writing. **If you have 18 players on your roster already, you must release any additional ball players to allow them to play for another team.**
1. A team manager can not issue a waiver to a player unless a player meets one of the four conditions listed above. Team managers have the responsibility to explain the waiver rule to players who inquire about playing with a base school team which is not nearest to their parent's legal residence.
 2. If a player is cut from or is not asked to play for the base school team nearest his parent's legal residence, an automatic waiver will be granted when requested in writing using American Legion Baseball Form #76. Under these conditions, a manager must sign Form #76 when requested by the player.
 3. All request for waivers must be in writing on ALB Form #76 prior to each District's Form #1/Form#2 roster closing date. Each request for election must go first to the District Chairman and then to the Division Chairman for approval.
 4. Copies of all approved waivers must be attached to a team's Form #1 roster, which must be filed with the District Chairman, and a copy to the Division and Department Chairman.
 5. All waivers issued for the 2014 season will expire on 12/31/14.
 6. The enrollment of the school involved with a waived player must be counted toward the 5,000 limit.
 7. If the waiver crosses state lines and involves two states, mutual written permission of both Department Chairmen is required.
 8. If the waiver crosses Division lines and involves two Divisions, mutual written permission of both Division Chairmen is required.

RULE 5 - SPECIAL RULES - Plan "B" only

- A. Players, through no fault of their own, unable to complete their eligibility because the Post they last previously played does not sponsor a team, may compete for the team nearest their parents or guardians legal residence. **Written permission for such competition must be obtained from his District and Division Chairman prior to Department Closing Date.** ENROLLMENT FIGURES FOR THEIR SCHOOL MUST BE COUNTED. Department Form #1/Form#2 **Roster Closing Date is June 23.**
- B. Players, through no fault of their own, unable to complete their eligibility because enrollment expansion eliminated their school from previously permitted combinations, may compete for the team they last represented provided no new players are recruited from their school. **Written permission for such competition must be obtained from the Department Chairman and prior to the Department Roster Closing Date, June 23.**
- C. **HOME-SCHOOLED PLAYERS:** A player who is home-schooled may compete for the team nearest their parents' or guardian's legal domicile. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by MapQuest ® (www.mapquest.com)
1. Written permission for such competition must be obtained from the authorized department baseball official prior to listing the player on the National Form #1.
 2. Enrollment figures for such players shall be that of the high school boundary of this parents' domicile
- D. **FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY:** Senior Legion baseball players who have one year of eligibility remaining, whose parents move out of the team's recruiting area, shall have an option of playing for the team nearest their parent's new domicile or returning to their former team.
1. The enrollment of the high school the player attend on March 31, 2014 shall be counted.
 2. Written permission to play for their previous team must be obtained from the department baseball chairman prior to listing the player on the National Form #1.
- Previous ineligibility includes former enrollment in high schools from which players could not be recruited by a particular team due to excessive enrollment or prior commitment to another American Legion Baseball team **NOTE: THE ENROLLMENT OF THE PLAYER'S FORMER HIGH SCHOOL WILL BE COUNTED IN THIS RULE.**
- E. **NEW TEAMS:** If a new team is organized where an established team recruited players, players must play with the base school team nearest their parents' legal residence. (*Exception: A player who previously played for an established team, but lives nearer to the new team's base school, has a choice of playing with his previous team or playing with the new team, providing he has eligibility remaining.*) Also, see Rule 4. A. 2, which outlines how players can be recruited from another team's base school. All other rules apply to new teams.

RULE 6 - JUNIOR TEAMS

The National Rule book has listed new rules that Junior Legion teams may adopt for the 2014 season with Department approval. This year each Division Chairman will have the authority to use these rules as they see fit. However once teams reach the Department Tournament they will play by the same rules as Senior Legion teams (exceptions are pitching limitations and innings played).

- A. American Legion Junior Baseball Teams in **2014** are open only to players born on or after **JANUARY 1 1997. Junior Baseball shall be limited to ages 17 and under. Any player born in 1996 or 1995 is not eligible in the Junior Legion Baseball. Any player on or after January 1, 2002 is not eligible to play. Junior teams are encouraged to certify with National as "Senior" teams do but they must be labeled as Junior teams.**

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1. Junior team Form #1/Form #2 rosters limited to 18 players.
2. Junior teams must carry S. A. Van Dyk Co. insurance, and like Senior teams, must obtain American Legion accident and liability insurance by June 1 or teams are disqualified from further competition **(See Rule 1.1)**
3. All double rostered players must be eligible to play at the Senior level for that team. Double rostered players are limited to 3.
4. Junior teams are prohibited from taking part in regular Senior team post-season tournaments at the District, Division or Department level. Department of Illinois Junior teams are allowed to participate in American Legion sanctioned post-season tournaments for Junior-type teams in Illinois and other states.
5. All Junior District, Division, Department Tournaments shall have **at least two (2)** competent umpires.
6. Junior team players are required to follow rules involving Form #76 and #77 waiver/choice forms.
7. All other American Legion and Official Baseball rules apply to Junior teams.
8. **DESIGNATED HITTER RULE - Junior Rule.** The Junior Legion Baseball program will use the same DH rule as the Senior Legion program.
9. **JUNIOR LEGION PITCHING:** No player may pitch more than a total of 10 innings during any consecutive three-day period. No player may make more the three appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period.

PENALTY—Game shall be forfeited if protest is filed with the umpire -in-chief before the last out of the game.

- a. Should a double or triple play cause a pitcher to exceed the permitted 10 innings the three consecutive days that action in and of itself shall not be construed as violation of the rule
- b. Any player may be removed from the pitching position and remain in the game at another position, However, a pitcher will be automatically removed when a coach makes two trips to the mound in the same inning and that player cannot return as a pitcher in that game.

PENALTY—FOR VIOLATING THIS RULE: Forfeiture of the game if a protest is filed with the umpire in chief before the last out of the game.

- c. **Rule 1 N shall be used in all District, Area, Zone, State Tournaments.**

RULE 7 - PREP TEAMS

This is a new program for 13 year old players and 14 year old players who do not turn fifteen (15) in 2014. (Players born in 2012 are not eligible)

- A. Rules that apply to the Junior Legion program also apply to the prep program with the following Exceptions
 1. Pitching - no player may pitch more than seven (7) innings or make more than two (2) appearances in any four (4) consecutive calendar days.
 2. There may be three (3) prep players dual rostered on the same programs Junior Legion team.

RULE 8 - PROTESTS

- A. If a player is found to be ineligible, they shall be disqualified immediately. All games which the disqualified player participated in shall be forfeited.
- B. All protests of players eligibility must be specific, with written proof, and must be filed prior to the start of Department Championship play and no protest of player eligibility will be accepted after that time.
- C. All protests must be in writing and must be filed with the responsible District or Division Baseball Chairman after the completion of the game in question **WITHIN 24 HOURS**. A telegram or FAX is considered to be in writing. Complete information, including a report from Umpires, must accompany each protest, *(Hearsay evidence will not be considered.)* No protest will be accepted which is based on an umpire's judgment decision. The decision of the Department Baseball Committee will be final, only recourse being that as prescribed hereafter as "National Baseball Appeals Board."
- D. All protest arising in any regular scheduled games must be filed with the local or District Chairman **WITHIN 24 HOURS**. all protest arising in a District Tournament will be filed with the District Chairman. All protests arising in the Division Tournament will be filed with the Division Chairman. All protest arising in the Department Final will be filed with the department Baseball Committee and will be ruled upon at that time. Protest fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) in cash or certified check, made payable to Department Baseball Committee, must accompany each protest. If the protest is allowed, the fee will be returned to the protester. If the protest is not allowed this fee shall be deposited in the baseball fund at the level the protest was filed.
- E. Protests of official baseball rules during actual game conditions must be before next legally pitched ball is thrown from the mound.
- F. All protests must be filed under National Rule 7, "Department Jurisdiction" as follows
 - 1. It is the duty of the Department Baseball Chairman and his Committee to formulate such rules, regulations and boundaries not in conflict with National Rules, for all play within that Department (*this to be done prior to the certification of the Department Championship team.*) The protection and stimulation of competition must be used in setting these regulations. Five (5) copies of the Department Rules must be filed with National Headquarters before April 15th of this year.
 - 2. All questions, disputes and protests within a Department, shall be decided by the Department Baseball Committee in charge who shall have the power to disqualify or suspend anyone violating Department or National Regulations.
 - 3. Interpretation of National Rules will be made by the National Director. All requests must be in writing. Such request must come through the Department Baseball Chairman, and interpretation will be routed back through that official.

RULE 9 - TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION

- A. Each team must certify with its respective Division Chairman using the Roster printed from the online Legion Baseball website. This roster should show the players general information including date of birth. A legible copy of the Form 2 that each player and parent has completed is to accompany this roster. A legible copy of each players birth certificate will also be submitted. Any Form 76 or Form 77 needed for the season should also be in this package. This is to be completed by **June 23, 2014**
- B. All teams wishing to compete in District, Division, Department and National Tournaments must complete the forms listed in Rule 9A. Closing date **June 23, 2014**.
- C. Date for establishing where a player attends school is **March 31, 2014**.

- D. American Legion Baseball players or teams may participate in other Amateur Baseball programs subject to Department Baseball Committee approval. **It is important that such permitted dual participation will not, in any way, interfere with a player's responsibility to American Legion Baseball. Failure to obtain approval from the Department Committee, may result in suspension from the American Legion Baseball program.**
- E. Players can be replaced in the team roster after the closing date under two situations.
 - 1. In cases of death of a player.
 - 2. A player who goes on active duty in the armed Forces of the United States.

RULE 10 - GAME / TOURNAMENT CONDUCT

THE CONDUCT OF THE ENTIRE TEAM IS THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE REGISTERED TEAM MANGER.

- A. No player, coach, manager or any party associate with any American Legion Baseball team shall ride, abuse, heckle or make any uncomplimentary remarks whatsoever to any opposing player or team official. Any individual violating this regulation shall be ejected immediately from the game by the umpire or game/tournament official and shall be suspended from; the next game/tournament game in which his team participates in. This does not carry into the next succeeding game/tournament.
- B. **CONDUCT ON THE FIELD:** Any player, coach, team manager or party accompanying a team will be suspended for the remainder of a game from the time of the rule infraction if they:
 - 1. Use profane language in any way
 - 2. Make any unnecessary gestures in protesting an umpire's decision (*only the managers or coach may ask for clarification of a rule, but must never argue.*)
 - 3. Throw bats or any other equipment.
 - 4. Make unnecessary gestures to fans or opposing players.
 - 5. Are responsible for unnecessary roughness on the playing field.
- C. **CONDUCT OFF THE FIELD:**
 - 1. All parties connected with the teams are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner at all times. Any party causing unnecessary disturbance at any time and not abiding by the rules will be suspended for the remainder of the tournament and returned home by the first available transportation.
 - 2. All players must be in their rooms prior to 11:00 p.m. or in the event of a late night game, one hour after completion of the game. An earlier curfew will prevail if the team manger or coach so desires.
 - 3. The team manager or coach will make a bed check each evening for the duration of the tournament.
 - 4. There will be no unnecessary remarks or playfulness; such as shoving, tripping, etc. in the rooms or at the restaurants.
 - 5. No player may leave the tournament to go home before his/her team is eliminated, until permission is granted by the Department Chairman.
 - 6. Responsibility of teams conduct during the Department Finals rests solely with the managers and coaches. Damages at the Motels and Hotels will be the responsibility of the Post, team manager, coach and players. A check of all rooms will be made prior to a team checking in and prior to departure, spot checks of rooms may be conducted, also.

7. Teams shall eat all meals as a team and be accompanied by at least one (1) adult member of that organization.
 8. Any player, or group of players, caught in possession of alcoholic beverages, drugs, firearms, or other weapons shall be immediately suspended from further play.
 9. Players shall maintain personal neatness at all times. Teams must keep motel/hotel rooms as neat as possible with cans, food containers and other garbage put into waste containers. Rooms will be checked.
 10. The preceding rules shall be rigidly enforced by the Department Baseball Committee during all periods the teams are under the Committee's jurisdiction.
- D.** Players, coaches or managers suspended for action on or off the field must obtain approval from the supervising District or Division Baseball Chairman or Department Baseball Committee to be reinstated for the purpose of participation in subsequent games.

RULE 11 - DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION

- A.** It is the duty of the Department Baseball Committee (*prior to certification of the Department Championship Team*) to formulate such rules, regulations and boundaries NOT IN CONFLICT WITH NATIONAL RULES, for all play within that Department. Such Department Rules may be more restricted. This will include rule of procedures on protest. The protection and stimulation of competition must be used in setting these regulations. Five (5) copies of the Department rules must be filed with National Headquarters before **April 15 of this year.**
- B.** All questions, disputes and protests within a Department shall be decided by the Illinois Department Baseball Committee who shall have the power to disqualify or suspend anyone violating Department or National regulations.
- C.** Interpretations of National Rules will be made by the National Americanism Commission. All requests must be in writing. Telegrams and Facsimiles are considered as being in writing. **Such requests must come through the Department Baseball Chairman and interpretations will be routed back through that official.** Any person violating this rule is subject to the discipline of the Illinois Department Baseball Committee, which may include suspension and/or a fine.
- D.** The Department of Illinois Baseball Committee is required to furnish National Headquarters with four (4) properly identified glossy print pictures 5 X 7 minimum size of all teams competing in the Department Tournament no later than the second day of that Department Tournament. Two (2) copies of these pictures, properly identified, will also be mailed to the appropriate Regional Tournament Chairman, at the beginning of the Department Tournament.

RULE 12 - NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- A.** The Illinois Department Championship team must be certified by the Department Baseball Chairman to the National Americanism Commission no later than midnight, **August 3, 2014.** National Headquarters will only be financially responsible for a maximum of eighteen (18) players and two (2) adults.
- B.** Competition will be only among teams who have placed their players on the National electronic roster and printed out a copy that has the players general information including date of birth, submitted the Form 2,s, copies of the Birth Certificates (Certified copies reviewed by a member of the Department Baseball Committee), any Form 76 or Form 77 to their respective Division Baseball Chairman.
- C.** All National Tournaments will be played under the direction of the National Americanism Commission. All disputes and questions arising shall be referred to the Americanism Commission Representative or to the National Americanism Division for a decision (*See Rule 10, C.*)

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- D. No Department will be permitted to enter a team in a National Tournament unless it holds an official Department Tournament with two or more regularly certified teams participating to determine the championship, provided that at least **EIGHT (8)** teams have been officially certified.
- E. Any situations arising not covered by National regulations will be under the jurisdiction of the National Americanism Commission. This decision shall be final. *(See Rule 10. C.)*
- F. No Regional Host Team shall be denied the opportunity of winning earlier championships at the County, District, Division or Department levels.
- G. All teams competing in Department and National Tournaments must have complete Player's Emergency Information (*ALB Form #2*), signed by parents or Court Appointed Legal Guardians, with them and available to the Representative at each such tournament upon their arrival at the tournament site.
- H. Eligibility protests of players involved in Regional and National Tournaments must be filed in writing, accompanied by written proof of the question being raised, with the National Representative at each such tournament no later than 9:00 A.M. (*local time*) on the first day of the tournament involved, except where there is a discovery of fraud. When fraud is discovered, the question; of eligibility to play must be filed immediately upon discovery, along with a written description of the alleged fraud. All other protest shall be filed as specified in the Official Baseball Rules. *(See Rule 1, page 4)*
- I. Teams in National Tournaments will play everyday. If a Bye is required after the fourth day's play in an eight-team field, the team last defeated will automatically receive the Bye. No National Tournament games will begin after 11:00 P.M. (*local time*).

RULE 13 - NATIONAL BASEBALL APPEAL BOARD

- A. There is hereby created a National Baseball Appeal Board (*hereafter referred to as the Board*) which shall be composed of: (1) the Chairman of the National Americanism Commission; (2) the Baseball and Recreation Sub-Committee Chairman of the National Americanism Commission; and; (3) a third member who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the National Americanism Commission. The Chairman shall also appoint two (2) alternate members to the Board to act in the absence of one or more of the Board members.
 - 1. The term of office of Board members and alternate members shall be one (1) year.
- B. An appeal filed under this rule must be taken within 24 hours from the time that the interpretation of the National Americanism Commission is assured. Such appeal may be by telegram, FAX or mailgram and shall incorporate the precise point or points of contention which are the basis for the appeal. No appeal shall be honored which is not filed within the foregoing time limitation.
- C. All appeals filed under this rule shall be directed to the National Baseball Appeal Board, National Headquarters, The American Legion, 700 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.
- D. The Board shall have sole and exclusive jurisdiction over any appeal taken from a decision involving American Legion Baseball rule interpretations rendered by the National Americanism Division. The determination of the Board on any matter brought before it for decision shall be final and conclusive and may be enforced by a court of competent jurisdiction. The concurrence of a majority of the members of the Board shall constitute the final determination of the Board.
- E. Interpretations by the National Americanism Commission rendered during tournaments supervised by National Headquarters will be approved by the National Baseball Appeal Board before publication.
- F. **No appeal shall be considered by the National Baseball Appeal Board until all established appeal procedures within respective Department rules have been exhausted, as certified in writing by the Department Baseball Chairman.**



DATES TO REMEMBER

2014 Tournaments

- District: July 14—July 28
- Division: July 21—July 25
- State Senior Legion: July 30—August 2 (Arlington Heights)
- Banquet: July 29
- State Junior Legion: July 31—August 3 (Belleville)
- Great Lakes Regional: August 7—11 (Terra Haute, Indiana)
- World Series: August 14—19 (Shelby, North Carolina)

PAST DEPARTMENT CHAMPIONS

YEAR	CITY	POST	YEAR	CITY	POST
1926	CHICAGO		1978	BARRINGTON	158
1927	-----		*1979	BARRINGTON	158
1928	CHICAGO	273	*1980	WAUKEGAN	281
1929	SPRINGFIELD	32	1981	MARISSA	172
1930	ZEIGLER	177	1982	CARLYLE	404
**1931	SO. CHICAGO	493	1983	TRENTON	778
1932	CHICAGO	47	1984	MT. PROSPECT	525
**1933	CHICAGO	467	1985	BARRINGTON	158
1934	BERWYN	422	1986	BARRINGTON	158
1935	CHICAGO	356	1987	LINCOLN	263
1936	CHICAGO	7	1988	BARRINGTON	158
1937	BERWYN	422	1989	PALATINE	690
1938	BELLEVILLE	58	1990	ROCK ISLAND	200
*1939	BERWYN	422	1991	BARRINGTON	158
1940	CHICAGO	98	*1992	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS	208
*1941	BERWYN	422	1993	ELGIN	57
1942	ROCKFORD	60	1994	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS	208
1943	BERWYN	422	1995	BARRINGTON	158
1944	WAUKEGAN	281	1996	MORTON	318
*1945	OAK PARK	15	*1997	ROCK ISLAND	200
1946	OAK PARK	15	**1998	EDWARDSVILLE	199
1947	BELLEVILLE	58	1999	ROCK ISLAND	200
*1948	BELLEVILLE	58	2000	LIBERTYVILLE	329
1949	BELLEVILLE	58	2001	DEERFIELD	738
1950	PEKIN	44	2002	LIBERTYVILLE	329
1951	BERWYN	422	2003	MATTOON	88
1952	SPRINGFIELD	32	2004	WILMETTE	46
*1953	WINNETKA	10	2005	MURPHYSBORO	127
1954	BELLEVILLE	58	2006	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS	208
1955	MOLINE	246	2007	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS	208
1956	MAYWOOD	133	2008	BELLEVILLE	58
1957	CHICAGO HEIGHTS	131	2009	PALATINE	690
1958	WAUKEGAN	281	*2010	MOLINE	246
1959	MURPHYSBORO	127	2011	ROCK ISLAND	200
*1960	BERWYN	422	*2012	MOLINE	246
1961	HIGHLAND PARK	145	2013	EDWARDSVILLE	199
1962	GALESBURG	285			
1963	NORTHBROOK	791			
1964	BLOOMINGTON	56			
*1965	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS	208			
*1966	NORTHBROOK	791			
*1967	NORTHBROOK	791			
1968	BELLEVILLE	58			
1969	WAUKEGAN	281			
1970	ELGIN	57			
1971	GALESBURG	285			
1972	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS	208			
1973	HIGHLAND	439			
1974	MAGNOLIA	254			
1975	BELLEVILLE	58			
*1976	DES PLAINES	36			
1977	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS	208			

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American Legion 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;

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