

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

2017 V.F.W. JUNIOR BASEBALL RULES

Updated 4/17

ARTICLE I – PLAYING REGULATIONS

All games shall be played under Minnesota High School Rules, except as follows:

- A. The uniforms requirements are:
1. A complete baseball uniform of the same style and color must be worn by all members of the same team.
 2. Every member of each team must be in proper uniform which will consist of the Post Name and Post Number or the Community name. The uniform must have the VFW patch displayed **on the left jersey sleeve**. Patches can be purchased through the State Headquarters. The “Cross of Malta” patch cannot be worn. **If players do not meet this standard, they will not be allowed to participate.**
 3. **Coaches shall have the VFW patch on their left sleeve to be allowed to coach bases. If not, they will be restricted to the dugout. Their uniform will consist of a baseball pant and jersey. Windbreaker tops are permitted if they have the VFW patch on left sleeve.**
 4. An identifying number of at least 4 inches must be worn on the back of the baseball shirt. **Players wearing a different numbered jersey than what is in the official Roster, will be reported to the State VFW Chairman prior to playing or will be restricted to the dugout for the game that they appeared in with improper number.**
 5. Copy of insurance for each Team must be shown.
- B. Two adult coaches or one coach and one active player are permitted on the coaching lines. Any player or coach making undue remarks, smoking and/or using tobacco on the field or in the dugout is to be ejected immediately from the game. A team coach must be in uniform to appear on the field. (Uniform does not necessarily have to match team uniform. No shorts.)
- C. Student/Coach Ejection from a Contest.
1. Any student or coach disqualified from a contest by game officials will be ineligible for the next regularly scheduled game/meet at that level of competition and all other games/meets in the interim at any level of competition.
 2. The second violation carries a four (4) regularly scheduled game/meet ineligibility.
- D. No team may play more than two games in one day. Extra innings in a game still count as part of the original game. Games are seven innings in duration, unless tied, then game will be continued until a winner is decided. In case game cannot be played to a full regulation seven innings, an official game will be declared if the Home Team is ahead after 4½ innings of play and ahead anytime during the same number of at bats.

- E. No player may pitch more than 14 innings in the Tournament unless he has had two consecutive days of rest. One pitch constitutes an inning, if he should only throw that much during the inning. Official scorer is responsible for keeping track.
- F. The ten (10) run rule will apply to all games at the tournament.
- G. The State V.F.W. Youth Activities Committee may prescribe such rule changes as deemed necessary for the Department Tournament.
- H. All protests regarding eligibility will be settled prior to the first pitch of the first ball game.
- I. Catchers must wear Throat Protectors.

ARTICLE II – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. Veterans of Foreign Wars Baseball Competition for 2017 is open to any player who was **born on or after June 1, 2000.** All Players will be Minnesota residents or be a FULL-TIME student of a Minnesota school to be eligible to play. All Players will play on the team that is in their respective school districts. In cases where the school they attend does not have a VFW team, they will play on the next closest team. In cases where circumstances prevent a player from playing on this team, they must apply for a waiver from their respective District Youth Chairman. These will be on a case by case basis.
- B. Players must, before the start of the District and Department play, have their Birth date checked by District and Department Youth Activities Chairmen or their Tournament Director. The Birth Certificate must be the original copy or a Photostatted copy or a certified copy from the Bureau of Birth Records of the State. A Certified affidavit signed by the Clergyman on his stationery will also be accepted, also driver's license with picture.
- C. In case the player was born outside the limits of the United States, he will present such certificate as accepted by the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization.

ARTICLE III - TEAM AND PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

- A. Each team must be sponsored by a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post all season and must register on the prescribed form available on the VFW website. ALL teams will submit their roster to the STATE Baseball Chairman by May 1st. The State Chairman will review, approve or disapprove roster, stamp as such and return a copy back to the team. The team will only have to furnish another roster if any changes are made. If this happens the final roster will be submitted to the State Baseball Chairman prior to July 1st. Teams will NOT have to furnish to the District Youth Chairman, the State Chairman will do this. Any team playing a game(s) without an approved roster will be INELIGIBLE for any post season play. District Youth Chairmen will send a picture of their District winner to the State Tournament Host, this can be done by PDF or snail mail.
- B. Forms must be filled out completely; all information MUST be typed except for the Post Officers information. Teams that do not fill out rosters correctly, will be withheld from advancing to the State Tournament.
- C. Each team roster must be restricted to twenty (20) players who will be eligible to play at the Department Tournament. **Players not checked in or not on the roster prior to playing at the State Tournament, will be removed from the tournament and the game forfeited.**

- D. All coaches must have completed concussion training to be allowed to coach at the VFW level. This includes the head coach and at least one assistant coach. Copies of completion will be submitted with roster to State Chairman.
- E. Each team will be allowed up to three coaches in dugout and on roster. This will be a head coach and two assistants. All roster information will be furnished for each coach on roster. May put on back of form. This is also the number of passes allotted to the team for games and banquet.

ARTICLE IV - DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Determine the site of the Tournament.
 - 1. All bids for the Tournament must be sent to the Department Youth Activities Chairman and to the State Baseball Chairman at least one (1) week prior to the Fall Conference with a complete listing of the available facilities.
 - 2. The Department of Minnesota V.F.W. will, prior to any Post receiving an award of a State Tournament, make sure the bidder has fulfilled all requirements to the Department involving V.F.W. business.
 - 3. All bids will be awarded at Fall Conference, if no bids for an event are awarded, the Youth Committee will select a site for the hosting with Council of Administration Approval.
- B. Any changes to Rules, awarding of sites or adding/deleting activities will be acted upon by the Youth Activities Committee prior to being presented to the Council of Administration for ratification. The proposed changes shall be acted upon at Fall Conference.
- C. Each District is entitled to one Championship team at the Department Tournament.
- D. All protests as to eligibility are to be settled prior to the first pitch of the first game. Birth Certificates are to be shown prior to the start of the State Tournament and insurance forms must also be presented then.
- E. The State Tournament will be a double elimination Tournament and will be held the second weekend of August. The Host Post has the option of starting play on Thursday. In case of rainouts, the Tournament will be continued until completed.
- F. If the 1st falls on a Sunday, this is considered a full weekend.
- G. Umpires decisions are final. V.F.W rules supersede all High School Rules.
- H. Department Chairmen will draw up the original bracketing. The final bracket will be approved by the Department Chairmen prior to team distribution.
- I. Department Chairmen have the option of pulling the tournament from the awarded site if they do not follow the V.F.W. guidelines.
- J. Home team, throughout tourney, will be the team listed on the TOP of each bracket. Home team will also have third base dugout throughout in all games except possibly the "if needed" game, in which case teams will remain in same dugout.

ARTICLE V - DISTRICT YOUTH CHAIRMAN RESPONSIBILITY

- A. District Chairmen will, prior to any teams playing in their district, furnish a copy of the State rules to them.
- B. Set up and run a District Tournament to select the representative to go to the Department Tournament.
- C. Certify eligibility. **THIS IS A MUST.**
- D. **DISTRICT PLAYOFFS MUST BE COMPLETED AT LEAST TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE DEPARTMENT TOURNAMENT.**
- E. If weather Disrupts completion of the District playoffs, the District Chairman must report immediately to the State Baseball Chairman.
- F. If advancing team information is not sent to the State Tournament Chairman, the head coach of the team in violation will be suspended for the first State Tournament game.
- G. Certify District Champion and submit, on time, a maximum list of twenty (20) eligible players and **a team picture** to the Tournament Director.
- H. All District Youth Chairmen will be required to attend Fall Conference. If they cannot attend, the District Commander will appoint someone (with letter to State Chairman) that they are filling in and have the voting power. If the District Commander does not have a representative or the chairman at the meeting the District Youth Chairman will be replaced by the State Commander

ARTICLE VI – HOST POST RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Local V.F.W. will organize and direct the Tournament. They will appoint a V.F.W. member to be the Director.
- B. The Director will make sure that all income and expenses of the Tournament will be handled in accordance with the Department Rules, and follow all National and State By-Laws. i.e. Monies.
- C. On completion of the Tournament, the Director will submit a breakdown of the Tournament income and expenses to the Department Youth Chairman. They will also offer any items of interest that did not or did work to assist future Tournament hosts.
- D. Provide housing of three rooms for the Department Rep, the Department Baseball Chairman and the Department Youth Director.
- E. Must have two fields in excellent shape. One field must be lighted.
- F. Have a photographer present before each first round game for official game photos.
- G. Operate the Tournament in general, handling all advertising and publicity. Contact competing teams regarding participation in the Tournament. Host Post will retain all proceeds from the Tournament.

- H. There shall be a certified athletic trainer, emergency medical technician (EMT) or medical or osteopathic physician in attendance at all games.
- I. Obtain two qualified Uniformed Umpires for each game. (Three for the final game.) If they work more than one game, they shall rotate between home plate and bases.
- J. Medals and team plaques will be the responsibility of the Host Post and will be given to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, plaques will be given to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.
- K. A copy of the Official Baseball Rules must be on the field in the hands of the Tournament Director.
- L. Provide protective covering for four bases and pitcher's mound.
- M. ***Each Post sponsoring a team in the State Tournament is required to have a Post Representative in attendance at the Tournament. Sign in sheet at the Headquarters.***
- N. The Sportsmanship Code will be read on the field before all games. The Host Team Tournament Director will make sure he has copies available at all ballparks.
***** This was approved at the Fall Conference in Grand Rapids, September, 2001 *****
- O. Provide all District Youth Chairmen with Tournament passes when they are in attendance.

ARTICLE VII - PARTICIPATING TEAMS

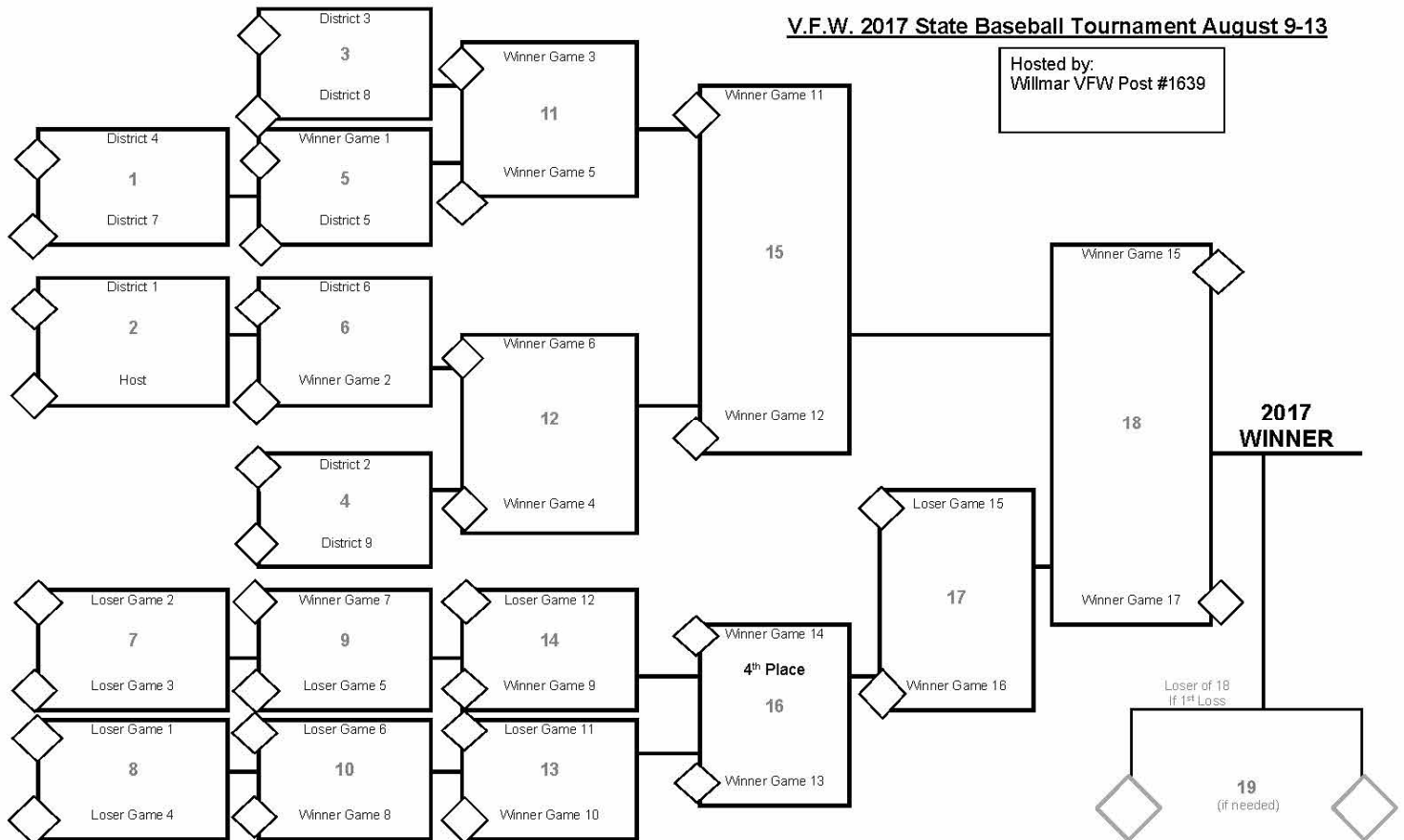
- A. Sponsoring Post is encouraged to pay for meals and transportation for District and Department Tournaments.
- B. Sponsoring Post is also encouraged to pay for 5 rooms for players, plus 1 room for coaches, at a Hotel or Motel.
- C. Proper supervision of the team members must be provided at all times, especially at night. Action detrimental to the program by team members or coaches can mean removal of the team from the Tournament. A responsible adult, approved by the Commander will stay with the team at all times.
- D. If the District Champion or Runner Up does not compete in the Tournament, they will forfeit their Post's entry for the following year.
- E. Must be at the playing field 1 hour before game time.
- F. CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$200 (made payable to Host Post) will be given to Baseball Chairman at the time Birth Certificates are checked.
- G. At the conclusion of the tournament a check for \$1,000 will be given to the Department Youth Activities Chairman, made out by the Host Post. This check will be used to help defray the cost of jackets (which must be red, white, and blue) for the winning team. The winning team will purchase jackets, and or rings which **MUST** show that they represent the VFW. When the jackets have been purchased a copy of purchase receipt will be sent to the Department Youth Activities Chairman and they will then release the

\$1,000. If the winning team does not purchase jackets, in a reasonable amount of time, the monies will be sent back to the ten teams that paid it.

H. Gate fees are at discretion of Host, but effective in 2013 a Tourney Pass will be offered with a maximum cost of \$20.00; \$15.00 is the suggested cost.

THE 63rd ANNUAL DEPARTMENT JUNIOR BASEBALL TOURNAMENT WILL BE PLAYED IN WILLMAR ON THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY **AUGUST 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, 2017** HOSTED BY WILLMAR POST VFW POST #1639. The Host Post will not play the team from their own District in the first round. If through normal scheduling this would normally be the case then they switch with the corresponding team in game one. The 2018 Tournament will be hosted by Marshall VFW Post #742.

63rd Annual V.F.W. Junior Baseball Tournament Willmar, MN



Rick Bugbee, State Baseball Chairman
2825 Lakeview Drive
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Phone: 218-770-5656 rickbug@prtcl.com
4/17

Brian Gislason, Tournament Chairman
309 Trott Ave SE
Willmar, MN 56201
Phone: 320-214-7592 gislasonbrian1@gmail.com

STATE OF MINNESOTA

V.F.W. BASEBALL

We would like to ask all competitors to abide by "The Student Athlete's Code of Sportsmanship" which is:

1. We will respect all aspects of the game: ourselves, all coaches, all officials, teammates, opponents, fans, and the rules; regardless of the behavior of others.
2. We will support our teammates and be team players.
3. We will recognize who and what we are representing.
4. We will show no bias, no prejudice, or preferential treatment on or off the field.
5. We will take responsibility for our own behavior.
6. We will be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

2017
VFW WAIVER FORM

This form is hereby submitted to request to play outside of the school district to which I attend.

Player Name: _____

School District: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Local Coach: _____

Address: _____

Phones: _____

District # (circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Waiver Approved: _____

Waiver Unapproved: _____

Reason for Approval or Unapproval:

Team information to which I am requesting to be a member of:

Coach Name: _____

School District: _____

Coach Address: _____

Phones: _____

District # (circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

I realize that, even though requesting this waiver, I am NOT guaranteed that it will be approved. This waiver is yearly and only pertains to VFW baseball.

Player Signature _____ **Date:** _____

District Youth Chairman Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Approved _____ Unapproved _____