

The American Legion Department of Florida



Baseball Manual 2025

floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com

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FOREWORD

This Department of Florida Baseball Manual has been prepared by the Executive Baseball Committee as a form of communication between the Department Baseball Chairman and Vice Chairman-Commissioners, Divisional Commissioners and Vice Commissioners, Team Managers and Coaches who are registered and authorized to participate in the American Legion Baseball Program.

This Manual has specific dates, rules and regulations for the State of Florida and is governed by the Executive Baseball Committee. This manual is in effect throughout the Pre-Season, Regular Season, Division Qualifying Tournaments and State Tournament

The National Tournaments rulebook, specific dates and regulations are in effect once a State Champion is declared by the Department Baseball Chairman. The State Championship Team is eligible to compete in the National Southeast Regional Tournament. The Regional Champions are eligible to compete in the National World Series Tournament.

Failure to operate your team in accordance with the rules and regulations of American Legion Baseball, both State and National, could result in the following action:

- Teams could be prohibited from playing American Legion Baseball
- Eligibility of your players could be jeopardized
- Lose players due to rule infractions
- Teams could forfeit league or tournament games once the season is underway

The guidelines set forth in this manual and the rules and regulations outlined have been designed to protect your team, your players, and the American Legion Post or organization that sponsors your team.

THE BASIC OBJECTIVES ARE: TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM, PATRIOTISM, SPORTSMANSHIP, TEAM BUILDING AND GOAL SETTING.

1. COMPETITIVE PLAY.

2. PROVIDE SAFETY TO ALL PARTICIPANTS.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF PLAYERS.

American Legion Baseball offers player's a chance to compete in a Divisional Qualifying Tournament, earn a Team bid to the Florida State Championship Tournament (where the top 4 North Division Teams will compete with the top 4 South Division Teams for a State Championship.

The State Champion will earn an all-expense paid invite to the American Legion Southeast Regional Tournament and compete against the top 8 State Champions for a SE Regional Championship.

The Southeast Regional Champion will earn an all-expense paid invite to compete against the other 8 Regional Champion Teams and the top player recruits and talent from all over the country in the American Legion World Series.

If you have any questions about any information in this manual, contact your Divisional Commissioner or Vice Commissioner and or the Department Baseball Chairman Terry Phillips at 904-535-4114 or at baseball@legionmail.org. attention Department Baseball Chairman.

PAST STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

National Champions

1978 Hialeah Post 32
1981 West Tampa Post 248
1986 Jensen Beach Post 126
1997 Sanford Post 53



National Runner-Up

1948 Jacksonville Post 9

Most State Championships

West Palm Beach Post 12 – 11 wins

Senior State Champions

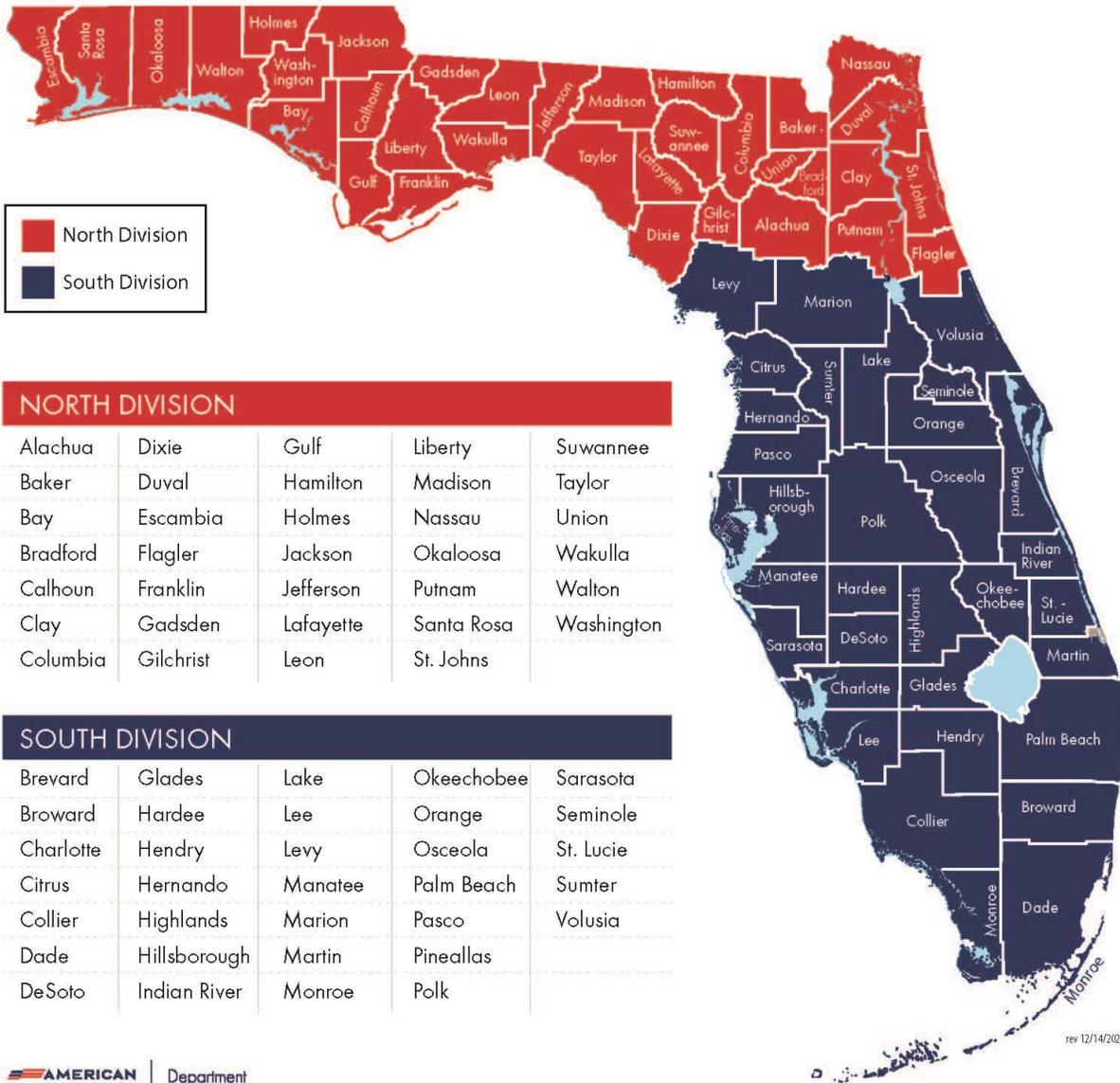
1928 Tampa
1929 Tampa
1930 Tampa
1931 Tampa
1932 West Palm Beach Post 12
1933 Gainesville Post 16
1934 Tampa
1935 West Palm Beach Post 12
1936 Tampa – Ybor City
1937 Tallahassee Post 13
1938 West Palm Beach Post 12
1939 Tallahassee Post 13
1940 Jacksonville Post 137
1941 Lakeland Post 4
1942 N/A
1943 N/A
1944 West Palm Beach Post 12
1945 Lakeland Post 4
1946 Avon Park Post 69
1947 Jacksonville Post 9
1948 Jacksonville Post 9
1949 Jacksonville Post 9
1950 West Palm Beach Post 12
1951 Jacksonville Post 9
1952 Jacksonville Post 9
1953 Jacksonville Post 9
1954 Jacksonville Post 9
1955 Lakeland Post 4
1956 West Palm Beach Post 12
1957 Miami Pan Am
1958 Lakeland Post 4
1959 West Palm Beach Post 12
1960 Miami Pan Am
1961 Miami Pan Am
1962 Bradenton Post 24
1963 West Palm Beach Post 12
1964 West Palm Beach Post 12
1965 Tallahassee Post 13
1966 Miami Post 300
1967 Miami Post 300
1968 West Tampa Post 248
1969 West Tampa Post 248
1970 Miami Shores Post 124
1971 Tallahassee Post 13
1972 Gainesville Post 16
1973 Vero Beach Post 39
1974 Deland Post 6
1975 Deland Post 6
1976 St. Petersburg Post 14
1977 West Palm Beach 12
1978 Hialeah Post 32
1979 Orlando Post 286
1980 Hialeah Post 32
1981 West Tampa Post 248
1982 Deland Post 6
1983 West Palm Beach Post 12
1984 West Tampa Post 248
1985 Madeira Beach Post 274
1986 Jensen Beach Post 126
1987 West Tampa Post 248
1988 West Palm Beach Post 12
1989 Sarasota Post 30
1990 Brandon Post 278
1991 Sarasota Post 30
1992 Miami Post 346
1993 Miami Post 346
1994 Miami Post 346
1995 Coral Gables Post 98
1996 Deland Post 6
1997 Sanford Post 53
1998 Sanford Post 53
1999 Bradenton Post 24
2000 Fort Pierce Post 358
2001 Sanford Post 53
2002 Sanford Post 53
2003 Sebastian Post 189
2004 Bay County Post 375
2005 Sanford Post 53
2006 Deland Post 6
2007 Coral Springs Post 265
2008 Fort Pierce Post 358
2009 Bradenton Post 24
2010 Boynton Beach 164
2011 Bradenton Post 24
2012 Fort Pierce Post 358
2013 Jacksonville Post 88
2014 Jacksonville Post 88
2015 Tallahassee Post 13
2016 Tallahassee Post 13
2017 Tallahassee Post 13
2018 Tallahassee Post 13
2019 Tallahassee Post 13
2020 *Season Cancelled* COVID-19
2021 Tallahassee Post 13
2022 Belleview Post 284
2023 Belleview Post 284
2024 Atlantic Beach Post 316

Junior State Champions

1988 Lakeland Post 4
1989 Bradenton Post 24
1990 Columbus, Miami
1991 Boca Raton Post 277
1992 Sarasota Baseball Club
1993 Jacksonville Post 283
1994 Sarasota Baseball Club
1995 Sarasota Baseball Club
1996 George Jenkins, Lakeland
1997 Orlando Post 286
1998 Apopka Baseball Club
1999 Tampa Catholic Post 5
2000 Pensacola Post 33
2001 North Tampa Post 334
2002 Lake Brantley Baseball Club
2003 Dunedin Post 275
2004 Oviedo Baseball Club
2005 Oviedo Baseball Club
2006 Oviedo Baseball Club
2007 Deland Post 6
2008 Jupiter Post 271
2009 N/A
2010 Deltona Trinity
2011 Stuart Post 62
2012 Fort Pierce Post 358
2013 N/A
2014 Wellington Post 390
2015 N/A
2016 N/A
2017 Atlantic Beach Post 316
2018 Tallahassee Post 13
2019 Tallahassee Post 13
2020 N/A *Season Cancelled* COVID-19
2021 Boynton Beach Post 164 & Clermont Post 55
2022 Jacksonville Post 9
2023 ALBAA Astros Jacksonville
2024 Boynton Beach Post 164



THE AMERICAN LEGION FLORIDA BASEBALL ORGANIZATION MAP



■ North Division
■ South Division

NORTH DIVISION

Alachua	Dixie	Gulf	Liberty	Suwannee
Baker	Duval	Hamilton	Madison	Taylor
Bay	Escambia	Holmes	Nassau	Union
Bradford	Flagler	Jackson	Okaloosa	Wakulla
Calhoun	Franklin	Jefferson	Putnam	Walton
Clay	Gadsden	Lafayette	Santa Rosa	Washington
Columbia	Gilchrist	Leon	St. Johns	

SOUTH DIVISION

Brevard	Glades	Lake	Okeechobee	Sarasota
Broward	Hardee	Lee	Orange	Seminole
Charlotte	Hendry	Levy	Osceola	St. Lucie
Citrus	Hernando	Manatee	Palm Beach	Sumter
Collier	Highlands	Marion	Pasco	Volusia
Dade	Hillsborough	Martin	Pineallas	
DeSoto	Indian River	Monroe	Polk	

Department of Florida

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 ORLANDO, FL 32854-7859
 www.floridalegion.org
TOLL FREE (800) 393-3378
FAX (407) 299-0901

BASEBALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Department Baseball Chairman

Terry Phillips

Legionnaire

904-535-4114

baseball@legionmail.org

Vice Chairman Commissioner

Paul Jacobs

Legionnaire

863-604-9350

pjacobs21@tampabay.rr.com

2nd Vice Chairman Commissioner

Jack Buzek

Legionnaire

561-758-9299

buzzcoach@aol.com

Northern Division Commissioner

Cory Goff

SAL

904-554-4813

cgoffbsb@gmail.com

Northern Division Vice Commissioner

TBD

South Division Commissioner

Tom Beck

SAL

908-400-7522

tbeck@weichertinsurance.com

South Division Vice Commissioner

Bob Dobkowski

SAL

352-400-0103

mr.blindmaster@yahoo.com

Baseball IT Support

Cliff Bard

SAL

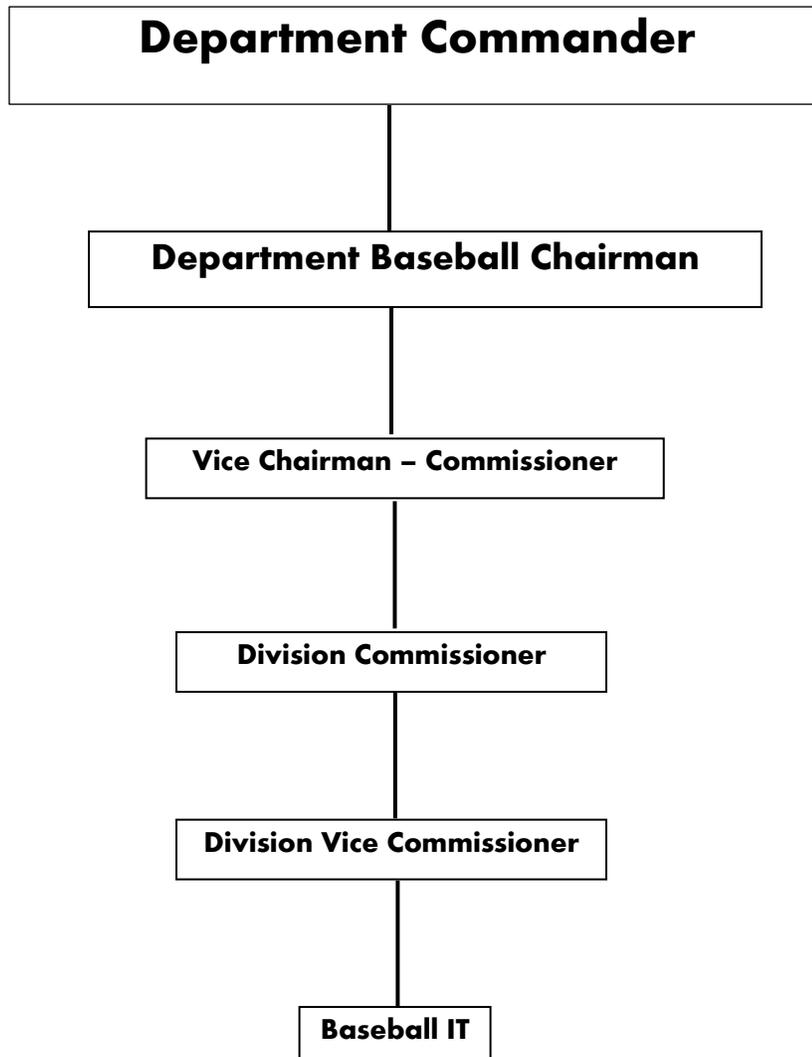
863-608-1853

seebardoe@aol.com

Past Department Baseball Chairman

Andy Burkett 2017-2019 Deceased

ORGANIZATION FLOW CHART





BASEBALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Department Baseball Chairman

The Department Baseball Chair is appointed by the Department Commander and serves as the Head of the Executive Baseball Committee in the governing and operations of the Department Baseball program.

The tenure and time of service as the Department Baseball Chair is ongoing until such time as the Department commander appoints a new Chair, or the member steps down, retires or takes another position.

Requirements:

- Must be a Legionnaire and an active member in good standing with The American Legion.
- Must pass the background check and abuse awareness training.
- Must have a passion for baseball and a desire to serve the youth and families that participate in the Baseball program.
- Must be willing to attend meetings, travel within the Department and outside the Department for Regional and National meetings and events.
- Must be willing to recruit new Post support, new players, teams, coaches, sponsor donations and to promote the values of Americanism, Patriotism, Sportsmanship and Service to Others.

Skills:

- The ability to communicate through verbal and written applications.
- The ability to speak and present in front of small and large groups at meetings and events.
- The ability to create, manage and control a workable budget that meets the needs of the Baseball program.
- The ability to complete tasks and to be self-driven in day-to-day requirements.
- The ability to prepare and submit updates quarterly/annually to the Department Commander, Department Finance Committee and membership.

Past Department Baseball Chairman

Past Department Baseball Chairs will serve as advisors to the current appointed/sitting Department Baseball Chair and will remain on the Baseball Executive Committee as an active member and will maintain a vote on all Baseball matters.

Requirements:

- Must be an active member in good standing of The American Legion.
- Attend meetings and events when possible.
- Speak on behalf of the Department Baseball Program and Baseball Chair when invited or asked to do so.
- Continue to help grow and promote the Baseball program.



BASEBALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Vice Chairman - Commissioner

The Vice Chairman – Commissioner is appointed by the Department Baseball Chairman and serves under the direction of the Department Baseball Chairman on the Executive Baseball Committee in the governing and operations of the Department Baseball Program.

The tenure and time of service as a Department Vice Chair - Commissioner is ongoing until such time as the Baseball Chairman appoints new Vice Chairman – Commissioners, or the member steps down, retires, or takes a new position and will remain on the Executive Baseball Committee as an active member and will maintain a vote on all Baseball matters.

Requirements:

- Must be a Legionnaire and active member in good standing of The American Legion.
- Assist the Department Baseball Chair in all Baseball program matters.
- Oversee Divisional Commissioners to ensure full compliance and accountability to all program rules and regulations.
- Must continue to help grow and promote the Baseball program.

Division Commissioner & Vice Division Commissioner

The Division Commissioner serves on the Executive Baseball Committee under the direction and leadership of the Department Baseball Chairman in the governing and operations of the Department of Florida Baseball Program.

The tenure and time of service as a Division Commissioner/Executive Baseball Committee member is ongoing until such time as the member steps down, retires, takes another position, or is removed by the Department Baseball Chairman for not meeting requirements.

Requirements:

- Must be an active member in good standing of the American Legion or Sons of the American Legion.
- Must pass the required background check and abuse awareness training.
- Must have a passion for baseball and a desire to serve the youth and families that participate in the Baseball program.
- Must be willing to attend meetings, travel in your division to recruit new Post support, new players, teams, coaches, sponsor donations, and to promote the values of Americanism, patriotism, sportsmanship and service to others.
- Must verify and certify their Senior and Junior teams have played the eight (8) required season games prior to the start of the Division Qualifying Tournaments and are required to report game dates, opponent and final score to the Department Chairman prior to Post Season Play (failure to do so will disqualify team or teams).



BASEBALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Skills:

- The ability to communicate through verbal and written applications.
- The ability to speak in front of small and large groups at meetings and events.
- The ability to complete tasks and to be self-driven in day-to-day requirements.
- The ability to prepare a Division Plan and submit reports and updates quarterly/annually to the Department Baseball Chairman.

A Vice Division Commissioner may be added by the Department Baseball Chairman to assist the Division Commissioner if needed.

IMPORTANT DATES

January 1 2025 Season	<p>Online Registration Opens: https://floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com/ All Managers, Coaches, and Division Commissioners should pre-register their Senior and Junior teams between January 1st and April 1st to create a contact/phone list of teams and coaches for scheduling games. New teams are going to sign up as they form, find players and funding in April and May before the deadline so Divisional Commissioners must help assure the new teams get their eight (8) games played to qualify for Divisional Qualifying Tournaments.</p> <p>Go to our webpage https://floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com/ to register and find Florida Baseball program information, contact lists, and important dates.</p> <p>NOTE: TEAMS MUST HAVE LEGION INSURANCE PRIOR TO ANY LEGION TEAM TRYOUTS, PRACTICE SESSIONS OR GAMES ALONG WITH A COMPLETED AND SIGNED FORM 2 WAIVER ON FILE.</p>
February 15	<p>First day to purchase Legion Baseball Insurance. Go to https://floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com/</p>
March 10	<p>Executive Committee Meeting – Location TBD</p>
March 11	<p>DEADLINE to request rulebook changes.</p>
March 29	<p>DEADLINE to establish player domiciles.</p>
April 9	<p>DEADLINE to submit recruiting maps.</p>
April 13	<p>DEADLINE to file Plan “A” and Plan “B” rezoning or new zoning with Department.</p>
May 12	<p>ALL Senior & Junior Teams should be pre-registered (except for new Legion Teams signing up prior to the deadline).</p>
May 21	<p>DEADLINE to purchase Legion Insurance, pay registration fees, complete background checks and abuse training certification.</p>

	NOTE: The <u>ABUSE AWARENESS FOR ADULTS Training Certification</u> accepted by the DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA is the <u>usabdevelops.com</u> course.
June 1	SEASON OPENING DAY – PLAY BALL
June 6-8	Senior Kick Off Tournament – Jacksonville, FL – Rondette Park
June 12-15	Department of Florida Convention – Orlando, FL – Baseball Training Class & Baseball Committee Meeting
June 22	TEAM ROSTERS ARE FROZEN
July 15	DEADLINE for baseball scholarship applications to Department
July 11-13	Divisional Qualifying Tournaments A Division with less than two teams will play in the nearest Divisional Qualifying Tournament to determine a State Tournament invitation/spot.
August 1-3	JR State Tournament Jacksonville, FL JP Small Stadium *Alternate Location TBD*
July 23-27	SR State Tournament Clearwater, FL Baseball Committee Meeting – Clearwater, FL
August 6-10	SR Southeast Regional Tournament McCrary Park 138 Southway Rd., Asheboro, NC
August 14-19	World Series Veterans Field at Keeter Stadium 230 East Dixon Boulevard, Shelby, NC 28152 Ph: 704-466-3103

IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

The National Americanism/Baseball Board meet annually in September at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN after the American Legion World Series to review the season and plan for the upcoming season. Rule changes, new rule additions or rule updates are submitted for review, discussions, and vote by all 50 Department Baseball Chairmen, a majority vote is needed for each proposed change, addition or update to be adopted and implemented. National Baseball Rules are reviewed every two years for additions, changes, and updates.

The following are new or updated rule changes from National Headquarters that are important for Department Baseball Chairman, Vice Chairman – Commissioner, Divisional Commissioners and Vice Commissioners, Managers, and Coaches to know prior to the upcoming season.

The official required patch for the left sleeve or left chest on the uniforms is the cross-bat logo not the home plate logo. Details are found on the National website legion.org/baseball under [resources/policies/branding rules](#).

IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES FROM DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

Florida Rule Changes: The approved and correct required baseball logo for the uniform is the cross-bat logo and must be permanently attached to the left sleeve or left chest. NO PIN ON PATCHES WILL BE ACCEPTABLE AND MUST BE ON THE UNIFORM BEFORE THE FIRST OFFICIAL LEGION GAME IS PLAYED. Any Team that plays and fails to follow the rule requirement will forfeit the game or games and will not be counted as part of the eight-game minimum to qualify for the Divisional Qualifying Tournament.

NOTE: THE DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONERS MUST VERIFY EVERY DIVISION TEAM HAS THE REQUIRED LEGION LOGO ON THEIR UNIFORMS BEFORE THE FIRST GAME IS PLAYED.

THE DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONERS MUST VERIFY ALL TEAMS HAVE THE REQUIRED FORM 2 WAIVER COMPLETED ON EVERY PLAYER BEFORE THEY CAN PRACTICE OR PLAY IN ANY LEGION GAME. YOU CANNOT WAIT UNTIL THE DIVISIONAL QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT TO VERIFY TEAM BOOKS AS THIS IS A LEGAL WAIVER REQUIREMENT.

COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AND RANDOM TEAM AUDITS WILL BE ENFORCED WITH PROOF OF COMPLIANCE UPON REQUEST.

NOTE: Due to the FDLE requirement, all additional coaches and volunteers, the expense of the background checks and fingerprinting will not be covered by the Department Baseball Program, this cost will be the responsibility of the coach, volunteer, or team and must be paid directly to the FDLE prior to participating in American Legion Baseball. This is a National and FDLE mandated requirement and as always, a FAIL result will disqualify anyone from the American Legion Baseball Program. No refund will be processed for a FAILED result and no refund will be issued should any coach or volunteer drop off your roster after the background check has been processed.

The Baseball Program will cover the cost of the background checks for two (2) coaches for each registered team. You must list all your coaches on your staff and team roster. Submit your paid receipt for the FDLE background check to bboarman@floridalegion.org for processing.

To allow more players wanting to play Legion Baseball and avoid shutting out anyone desiring to be on a team, as we voted in, we will now change the many areas in Florida to a North and South Division format. There will be a Northern Commissioner and Vice Commissioner(if) and a South Commissioner and Vice Commissioner(if) that will operate their divisions under the supervision and guidance of the Department Baseball Chairman.

In our battle against travel ball and show case tournaments, we must adjust how we operate our program in Florida. We are seeing and being told by both players and parents that they will not play for some HS Coaches, Travel Coaches or Teams due to their attitudes, language habits and moral standards. We as a league and organization must not force a player or parent to play for someone they do not want to play for, or they will not choose to play Legion Baseball.

Tournament Rules:

We will play the Legion Regular Season games under the same rules as past season, however during the Divisional Qualifying Tournament and the State Tournaments we will use and play under the National Tournament Rules with modified changes that apply to the Department of Florida Baseball Program.

PITCH COUNT

Pitch Count.

The maximum number of pitches thrown in a day is **105**. This can be in a single game or under the new rule a combination of two games in a day. If a pitcher throws in a second game on the same day, the pitch count from the first game is the beginning number of pitches until the daily limit of **105** has been reached.

For Junior teams, the maximum number of pitches is determined by the pitcher's age range.

The required rest period for 19U Senior, 17U Junior, and 15U Middle School pitchers after daily pitches thrown is:

- 1 to 30 pitches – no rest period
- 31 to 45 pitches – one day rest
- 46 to 60 pitches – two days rest
- 61 to 80 pitches – three days rest
- 81 to 105 pitches – four days rest

ATTENTION ALL COACHES – MANAGERS – ASSISTANT COACHES - VOLUNTEERS –

It is mandatory that you complete and certify in the Abuse Awareness for Adults course to qualify and participate in The American Legion Baseball program. Failure to do so will disqualify a Coach, Manager, Assistant Coach or Volunteer 18 years old or older from the team.

Abuse Awareness for Adults Course

In compliance with National Resolution 32, The Department of Florida utilizes the USA Baseball free Abuse Awareness for Adults training for all coaches, assistant coaches, managers, and volunteers over the age of 18.

This training must be completed. Any individual that has not completed and passed the FDLE background check, fingerprinting and sexual abuse awareness training will be prohibited from serving as a coach, manager, assistant coach or volunteer for American Legion Baseball.

The course is free and located at usabdevelops.com

The American Legion Baseball program mandates that each coach, manager, assistant coach or volunteer must renew their abuse awareness training every year. The certificate of completion will need to be presented upon request at any Regular Season game, Divisional Tournament, Post Season State Tournament, National Regional Tournament and National World Series Tournament.

NOTE: The Department of Florida also strongly recommends Pitch Smart Certification for all Head Coaches, Pitching Coaches, Parents of Players that are Pitchers and players that are Pitchers, to complete this free course at usabdevelops.com. It will provide vital information to help prevent serious injury to the pitchers.

2025 SENIOR DEPARTMENT STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Location

Madeira Beach
Jack Russell Memorial Stadium
800 Phillies Dr.
Clearwater, FL 33755

Tournament Contact:

Southern Commissioner Tom Beck
Ph: 908-400-7522
E-mail: tbeck@weichertinsurance.com

Dates

State Tournament: Wednesday, July 23 – Sunday, July 27

Hotel Accommodations

Hotel: Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park
950 Lake Carillon Dr.
St. Petersburg, FL 33716
727-540-0050

Senior Team Housing

The Department will provide up to 7 rooms that will sleep 4 players for each participating team that is required to travel over 60 miles from the tournament site. Any additional rooms needed by the participating teams must be paid for by the participating team.

- If a team reports to the State Tournament with a limited roster, a lesser number of rooms will be provided.
- Eliminated teams must return to the hotel and check out all team rooms prior to the hotel cut off time to avoid additional charges unless your team had to play a late game past 3:00 PM.

State Tournament Play

No Department will be permitted to enter a team in a National Tournament unless an official Department Tournament is held, with two or more regularly certified teams participating. *At least 8 teams must be officially certified in regular season play for a Department to enter a team in a Regional or National World Series Tournament.* These 8 teams will be determined through the Divisional Tournaments.



SENIOR STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE



Teams are still to be determined

Wednesday, July 23

Team Check In & Banquet

Thursday, July 24

Game 1 – North 1	vs	South 4
Game 2 – South 1	vs	North 4
Game 3 – North 2	vs	South 3
Game 4 – South 2	vs	North 3
Game 5 – Loser Game 1	vs	Loser Game 2
Game 6 – Loser Game 3	vs	Loser Game 4

Friday, July 25

Game 7 – Winner Game 1	vs	Winner Game 2
Game 8 – Winner Game 3	vs	Winner Game 4
Game 9 – Winner Game 5	vs	Loser Game 8
Game 10 – Winner Game 6	vs	Loser Game 7

Saturday, July 26

Game 11 – Winner Game 7	vs	Winner Game 8
Game 12 – Winner Game 9	vs	Winner Game 10
Game 13 – Winner Game 12	vs	Loser Game 11

Sunday, July 27

Game 14 – Winner Game 11	vs	Winner Game 13
Game 15 – If Needed		

Game 15 will be needed if both teams have one loss – One hour after Game 14.

ATTENTION: In the event of a rain out situation, either in the Championship game, partial or total tournament, the Department Baseball Chairman will declare a Department State Champion to advance to the Southeast Regional Tournament to represent the Department of Florida.

2025 JUNIOR DEPARTMENT STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Location

Jacksonville
JP Small Memorial Stadium
1701 Myrtle Ave. N.
Jacksonville, FL 32209

Tournament Contact:

Cory Goff
Ph: 904-554-4813
E-mail: cgoffbsb@gmail.com

Dates

State Tournament: Friday, August 1 – Sunday, August 3

Hotel Accommodations

Hotel: TBD

Junior Team Housing

Each Junior team will be responsible for their meals and housing. Each Junior team requiring housing (60 miles or more from the tournament site) will receive \$500.00 from the Department Baseball Executive Committee to help with team expenses.



JUNIOR STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE



****Teams are still to be determined****

Friday, August 1

Game 1 – North 1	vs	South 4
Game 2 – South 1	vs	North 4
Game 3 – North 2	vs	South 3
Game 4 – South 2	vs	North 3
Game 5 – Loser Game 1	vs	Loser Game 2
Game 6 – Loser Game 3	vs	Loser Game 4

Saturday, August 2

Game 7 – Winner Game 1	vs	Winner Game 2
Game 8 – Winner Game 3	vs	Winner Game 4
Game 9 – Winner Game 5	vs	Loser Game 8
Game 10 – Winner Game 6	vs	Loser Game 7
Game 11 – Winner Game 7		Winner Game 8
Game 12 – Winner Game 9		Winner Game 10
Game 13 – Winner 12		Winner Game 11

Sunday, August 3

Game 14 – Winner Game 11		Winner Game 13
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Game 15 will be needed if both teams have one loss – One hour after Game 14.

The Junior State Tournament must have a minimum of four teams participating in the State Tournament; less than four teams will not warrant a Junior State Tournament. The Junior State Tournament game schedule will be adjusted accordingly by the number of teams participating (minimum 4 teams, maximum 8 teams).

FLORIDA SPECIFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS

Article I – Name & Purpose

Section 1.

The official name will be the Department of Florida Executive Baseball Committee

Section 2.

The purpose:

- To provide a baseball program through which all members may participate under a common set of rules, to the mutual benefit of all.
- To provide lessons of Americanism, Patriotism, Citizenship and Sportsmanship by playing in the American Legion Baseball Program.
- To provide for the safety of the participants.

Section 3.

Department rules contained here-in, are supplementary to, and not intended to conflict with the official National American Legion baseball rules. The purpose of these rules is to protect and stimulate the competition of American Legion baseball within the state of Florida.

Article II – Management

Section 1.

American Legion Baseball competition shall be played under the rules set forth and adopted by the National Americanism Commission and the Department of Florida Executive Baseball Committee.

Section 2.

Shall be governed by the Department of Florida American Legion Executive Baseball Committee.

Section 3.

Shall verify the eligibility of players and teams and perform all necessary functions for the conduct of the American Legion Baseball program in the State of Florida as promulgated by the National Americanism Commission and the Department of Florida American Legion Executive Baseball Committee.

Section 4.

The Department Executive Baseball Committee shall be comprised of one Legionnaire Department Baseball Chairman, Department Past Baseball Chairmen, one Legionnaire 1st Vice Baseball Chairman – Commissioner (if), one Legionnaire 2nd Vice Baseball Chairman – Commissioner (if), one Legionnaire or SAL North Division Commissioner, one Legionnaire or SAL South Division Commissioner, One Legionnaire or SAL Baseball IT Support Commissioner (if), one Legionnaire or SAL North Division Vice Commissioner (if), and one Legionnaire or SAL South Division Vice Commissioner (if).

NOTE: The Department Baseball Chairman may approve Divisional Vice Commissioners to assist the Divisional Commissioners in baseball operations, supervision and growth of the baseball program if needed.

Article III – Insurance

Every American Legion Baseball team must purchase both group liability and accident insurance from The American Legion's agent of record. Coverage must be purchased NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT MAY 21st. **Any team who fails to purchase team insurance by June 1 from the agent of record shall be disqualified from American Legion baseball play.**

NOTE: It is recommended that you purchase year-round insurance to cover any after-season play time for fall ball and spring tryouts.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1.

All teams must have an approved recruiting division that meets Departmental guidelines for team membership.

Section 2.

All teams must have a "base school".

Section 3.

All teams must submit a team registration form showing its base school and/or recruiting division, which shall be approved by the Division Commissioner and certified by the Department Baseball Chairman.

Section 4.

Teams may register as a Senior or Junior team according to guidelines established by the Department Baseball Executive Committee.

Article V – Registration & Certification

Section 1.

Each team is encouraged to have an American Legion Post as a sponsor or an approved outside sponsorship.

Section 2.

Each team must register online, regardless of class, and pay an entry fee as follows:

- i. \$100.00 entry fee to National Headquarters for both Senior and Junior Teams
- ii. \$100.00 entry fee to Department of Florida for both Senior and Junior Teams

Section 3.

Each registered team must submit their completed team book with all required form 2's, photo ID, official team roster and proof of insurance prior to the Divisional Qualifying Tournament. Failure to do so will disqualify your team from all post-season play. The Divisional Commissioner will verify all information for full compliance.

ALL ROSTERS ARE FROZEN ON JUNE 22ND.

ALL PLAYERS must play in the Divisional Qualifying Tournaments to be eligible to play in the State Tournament, Regional Tournament, and World Series Tournament.

By Rule: Once the STATE TOURNAMENT begins play, no player shall participate in any other tournament or showcase under any circumstances, by doing so the player will be disqualified from post-season play.

EACH TEAM THAT ADVANCES TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT, PLAYERS MUST PRESENT AT THE TEAM CHECK IN A VALID DRIVERS LICENSE OR A VALID STATE ISSUED ID CARD (JUNIOR PLAYERS THAT DO NOT HAVE THE BEFORE MENTIONED ID'S MUST SUBMIT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THEIR BIRTH CERTIFICATE) FOR VERIFICATION TO THE EXECUTIVE BASEBALL COMMITTEE AT THE TEAMS APPOINTED CHECK-IN TIME.

Article VI – Background Checks

All Coaches, Managers, Assistant Coaches, Volunteers, Commissioners, Chairman, and any others that interact with the players will be required to complete and pass a yearly FDLE Background Check, Fingerprinting and Abuse Awareness for Adults Training Certification.

Failure to pass the background check, fingerprinting and complete the abuse training will disqualify any individual from participating in any level of The American Legion Baseball Program.

Article VII – Forfeiture

Teams not completing the required minimum eight regular season sanctioned and verifiable American Legion games will be disqualified from Divisional Qualifying Tournament and State Tournament play.

NOTE: Game Changer (GC) is the Official Score Keeper for Florida American Legion Baseball. All registered and approved Legion Teams will be required to enter your team information, games and who you played, date and final score on the GC Florida American Legion Baseball after each completed game to be counted towards your eight-game minimum..

It is required that Coaches must submit the game date, Legion opponent, and final score (win or lose) to the Division Commissioner who will certify the official Legion game. Divisional Commissioners will communicate the game results to the Department Baseball Chairman.

Article VIII – Protesting Games

Section 1.

A regular Season Game that is protested by a Head Coach, if the game is not completed, continue until the game is final. That Coach will notify the umpire in chief or plate umpire at once the reason of the protest. The umpire will notify the opposing Head Coach.

NOTE: AT ANY TIME IN ANY GAME WHEN AN EXECUTIVE BASEBALL COMMITTEE MEMBER IS ACTIVELY COACHING A TEAM FROM THE DUGOUT OR ON THE FIELD, THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED A COACH FOR THAT GAME OR GAMES.

Section 2.

An official protest must be filed in writing by the Head Coach within 24 hours after completion of the game to the Division Commissioner who must notify the Department Baseball Chairman. **A filing fee of \$100.00 shall accompany the protest.** If the protest is allowed, the fee is returned. If not allowed, the fee is put in the Baseball Committee's General Fund. If the fee does not accompany the protest, no action will be taken.

Section 3.

Protests on judgment calls will not be considered.

Section 4.

Step 1: All requests for interpretation or appeal of American Legion Baseball rules must be emailed to the Division Commissioner or Department Baseball Chairman.

Step 2: If there can be no resolution at the Division Commissioner level, the request for interpretation or appeal may be forwarded to the Executive Baseball Committee and Department Baseball Chairman.

NOTE: The Florida Department Baseball Chairman will make the final decision on all appeals.

NOTE: Should any coach, player, or manager with American Legion Baseball, appeal directly to the National Americanism Commission and forego steps 1 & 2 of the appeal procedure - this shall be considered a violation of this rule, and the person or parties protest will be denied and forfeit their filing fee.

Article IX – Playing Regulations

Patches / Sublimated Logo

The required Legion cross-bat Baseball Logo must be worn on the left sleeve or left chest prior to playing the first American Legion season sanctioned game. There are no exceptions, failure to comply will result in the removal of a player or coach from the game. Should the team not have the required logo on the uniform, the game will be forfeited and be reported to the Divisional Commissioner who will notify the Department Baseball Chairman.

NOTE: Go to the floridamericanlegion.sportngin.com site, click on the resources tab for information on how to use the logo, allowed colors and size of the logo.

The required Baseball Logo can be screened, sublimated or embroidered on jerseys, jackets, hats or shirts. You must submit a request for a limited use of the American Legion Baseball Logo to the Department of Florida. You can contact your Department Baseball Chairman or Department Programs Director for Information.

Patches are available from National Flag & Emblem Sales at <https://emblem.legion.org/> or if you desire to have the patch screened or sublimated on a uniform shirt or jacket, you must submit a Request for a Limited Use of The American Legion And/or Emblem form to the Department of Florida. You can contact your Department Baseball Chairman or Programs Director for information.

Coaching Boxes.

Players and coaches who are listed on the team roster are permitted on the coaching lines, in the dugouts, and on the field. During regular season play and tournaments, Coaches are permitted to wear coaches shorts that match the team uniforms, however during Divisional Qualifying, State and National Tournaments shorts are not permitted and Coaches must wear Team Baseball pants. Base coaches are required to wear coaches' helmets, no exceptions. Failure to do so will result in removal from the game.

Games per day.

Teams are not required to play more than two 7-inning games during league, divisional, state, or regional tournaments. Playing days can begin at 8:00 AM, local time. **NOTE:** Any game started on one day and carried over to the next day - player and game records will be credited to the day the game started.

NOTE: In case of weather delays during the Division Qualifying Tournament or Department State Tournament play, teams may play a third game in a day provided Teams have a minimum of one hour rest time and Pitch Count Rules are followed.

Time Limit Rule.

All games will play seven (7) innings with an official time limit of two (2) hours, no new inning will start after two (2) hours for both Junior and Senior games. Games are played until the innings are complete, or the time limit has expired, or the run rule is applied, whichever comes first.

NOTE: During the Divisional Qualifying Tournament and State Tournament play, if a game is tied, we will use the Texas Tie Breaker with the last runner on second base with no outs as we must have a winner.

EXCEPTION: Divisional Qualifying Tournament and the State Tournament, there are no time limits on the Semifinal and Final games.

10 or 15 Run Rule.

For all games during Regular Season play, Divisional Qualifying Tournament, and State Tournament play the 10 after 5 innings run rule and the 15 after 4 innings run rule will apply.

Jewelry.

The Department Baseball Committee discourages the wearing of any jewelry such as earrings, necklaces, and bracelets that may cause an injury.

Speed-Up Rule.

The "speed-up rule" can be used in Divisional Qualifying and State Tournament play by a non-participating player if there is one available or the last out, to run for the catcher or a pitcher with two outs as soon as he reaches base. Speed-up Rule **can be** used in the State Tournament play.

Dual Participation.

American Legion Baseball players or teams may participate in other amateur baseball programs provided that dual participation will not in any way interfere with a player's or team's responsibility to American Legion Baseball.

- i. During the regular season, a coach must determine if he will permit any of his players to dual participate in another baseball program. Coach must submit a completed Form 6 to the Divisional Commissioner to be forwarded to the Department Baseball Chairman.
- ii. If any player participates in another baseball program's qualifying tournaments, tryout camps, area games, showcases or any other baseball programs that have conflicting dates with the American Legion State Tournament, he or she will be ruled ineligible to participate in the American Legion Championship Tournaments at any level.

NOTE: Once the Legion State Tournament Play begins, no player will be authorized to play in any outside tournaments, tryouts or showcase events. Should a player or players choose to do so, they must notify the Coach, and the player or players will not be eligible to participate in the State Tournament.

Dual Roster.

Any JUNIOR (17u) player or players listed on any approved Official Jr. Team Roster is eligible to join any Sr. Team Roster without restriction prior to the Roster Freeze Deadline June 22.

Player's Domicile.

In addition to National's rule: The State of Florida is an "open" enrollment school system which affects players and parents wanting to play in American Legion Baseball Program. In open-enrollment situations, any player or parent wanting to play on a different team, these steps must be followed prior to the roster freeze deadline:

1. The Coach must notify the Coach of the other team of the transfer.
2. A release/transfer form 76 must be completed and signed, then forwarded to the Divisional Commissioner and Department Baseball Chairman for final approval.

NOTE: In the event a Coach is unwilling to grant the release/transfer form 76, the Department Baseball Chairman will make the final decision of approval or non-approval based on the reason for the request by the player or parent.

Professional Baseball Contract.

In addition to National's rule: It is important that teams select and register players that will complete their obligation to their American Legion Team. Any player who signs a professional contract on or after July 1st **cannot** be replaced on the National Form #1. Professional teams may sign a player at any time.

Proof of Age.

In addition to National's rule: Florida Driver's License, or Florida Identification Card must accompany the Form 1 on or prior to June 1. The originals must accompany the winning team throughout championship play. ***Area Commissioners will be responsible for relaying the information needed on the cards to the Department of Florida once the player's birth***

certificate and ID has been verified. Acceptable forms if ID's are a valid State issued photo Driver's License, a valid State issued photo ID Card, or a Certified Birth Certificate.

Team Rosters.

Teams must submit a color team photo listing their players' names and jersey numbers. This photo will be used to verify that your team rosters, a maximum of 18 players, have not been adjusted.

Official Scores.

We have implemented our OFFICIAL FLORIDA LEGION GAME CHANGED, ALL LEGION TEAMS must register on the Florida American Legion Baseball app. Team Managers or Coach must go to the gc.com, then to Florida American Legion Baseball and request to join. Teams will then enter their team information.

NOTE: Teams must use this Official Scoring to verify and certify their teams have met the required eight game requirements to participate in the Divisional Qualifying Tournament. Failure to do so will eliminate your team.

Article X – Player Recruiting Plan “B” – Rule 4

In addition to National's rule: Florida being an “Open” enrollment state, Florida Teams must declare a base school. Teams are built by using surrounding schools and student enrollment numbers. School student enrollment numbers are for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades, 9th grade does not count in total school enrollment. The maximum allowed total enrollment number per team is 7500 students. If a player has graduated and you must use his high school enrollment number.

Florida is divided into the North Division and South Division and are subject to review each year by the Executive Baseball Committee.

Article XI – Sportsmanship & Conduct – Rule 7

Approved Ruling - When applying the suspension rule, penalties shall be served for the team's next regularly scheduled contest(s). If a previously scheduled game has been postponed or halted, that make-up game against the originally scheduled opponent shall count as a regularly scheduled contest.

1. **Physical Abuse** - Any physical abuse of a game official, coach, or another player, including attempting to strike with the arms, hands, legs, feet or equipment in a combative manner.
2. **Verbal Abuse** – forceful or hostile criticism, insults, profanity, or threat of violence of a game official, coach, or another player.
3. Any threat of physical intimidation or harm to include pushing, shoving, kicking, throwing at or attempting to make physical contact.

PENALTY for 1 & 2.

If a player, coach, or team representative is ejected from a contest because of physically or verbally abusing an official, coach, or another player, the following shall be enforced:

- i. For the first offense by an individual, ejection plus suspension from the team's next contest.
- ii. For a second offense by an individual in the same season, ejection, and suspension for the remainder of the season, including Divisional Qualifying Tournament.
- iii. Procedures for enforcing penalties are as follows:
 - a. After an ejection and suspension, the offending individual must leave the field and dugout area immediately and is not allowed to communicate with team members or the umpires.
 - b. Suspended personnel shall not be in uniform, allowed in any team area or perform any team duty while serving their suspensions.
 - c. It is the responsibility of the team's head coach and/or team manager to administer and enforce the suspension penalty. If a suspended player or coach is found to have participated in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game will be forfeited by the offending team and the individual will not be eligible for further participation.
 - d. If the penalty occurs during the team's last game of the season, a one-game penalty will be assessed at the beginning of the next season.
- iv. Any player or coach ejected by an umpire during the regular season must sit out the following game. At the State Tournament, he must be reinstated by the Department Executive Baseball Committee after sitting out a minimum of one game.

NOTE: Team managers, team coaches, and game umpires are required to notify the Department Baseball Chairman on all ejections from a game with the player's name and jersey number, or coach's name if ejected.

Article XII – Pitch Smart Training and Certification

The Department of Florida American Legion Baseball Executive Committee strongly recommends that all Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Pitching Coaches, Pitchers and Parents of Players that pitch to take this free and very important safety course.

This information is for Safety and Arm Health for all players that pitch and will help prevent injuries to the throwing arm.

USA Baseball and MLB have teamed up to help players reduce arm injuries by providing a comprehensive resource for safe pitching practices. Baseball is a safe game to play for all ages, but research has shown that pitching too much and too often – particularly at a young age – can and will increase the pitcher's risk of injury. Pitch Smart is a series of practical age-appropriate guidelines to help parents, players, and coaches avoid overuse injuries and foster long, healthy careers for youth pitchers.

The Pitch Smart course can be taken at no cost and found at USA Baseball website <https://usabdevelops.com/> go to the Education section and select Course catalog. The introduction to Pitch Smart course can be found after clicking View Courses.

JUNIOR TEAM REGULATIONS

Junior teams will play under the same Rules and Regulations as the Senior teams with these exceptions:

LEAGUE PLAY:

- i. Junior teams are not restricted to enrollment or domicile requirements.
- ii. Coaches can choose to use free substitutions in and out without changing the batting order. Pitchers cannot return to the mound in the same game.
- iii. Coaches may choose to bat the whole bench. All players must be listed on the line-up card and batting order.
- iv. Coaches may use a DH or two EH's if not batting the bench.

DIVISION, STATE, AND REGIONAL TOURNAMENT PLAY:

- i. Junior Teams will play under the Straight nine rule.
- ii. You may use a DH for your pitcher spot on the line-up card and you must list your pitcher in 10th spot on the line-up card as a PO.
- iii. No courtesy runners or free in and outs.
- iv. The Speed Up Rule may be used in Division Qualifying Tournament and State Tournament.
- v. No Speed Up Rule allowed in Regional Tournament Play.

TEAM DAILY PITCH COUNT LOG

Team Name: _____			
Game Day: Date	Pitcher's Name & Number	# of Pitches	Required # of Rest Days

Each Team Coach Or Manager Must Maintain And Keep This Information In Their Team Book At All Times For Verification On Request By League Officials, Opposing Coaches, Or Umpires.

Coach Name: _____ Signature: _____

