

2019 American Legion Baseball Bylaws

8th District

State of New York



ARTICLE I

ADMINISTRATION

I-1: These Bylaws and rules are intended to supplement the National and Department rules governing American Legion Baseball and provide for the administration of American Legion Baseball 8th District of New York. Any conflicts in rules shall be resolved by reference to the Department and/or National Rules.

I-2: The name of this League shall be The Erie County American Legion Baseball League.

Membership shall be open to any 8th District Post (approved by the league) complying with the National and Department rules for American Legion Baseball upon payment of an entry fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) on or before the February meeting each year. Such fee is non-refundable and is to be credited toward the annual franchising fee.

I-3: The executive officer of this league shall be the person appointed 8th District Baseball Chairman by the 8th District Commander of the American Legion.

I-4: In addition to the powers and duties conferred upon by the District Chairman by the Department Rules, the chairman or the league director may:

- a. Appoint committees or otherwise delegate authority.
- b. Suspend any team, coach, manager or player for conduct detrimental to the aims and principles of American Legion Baseball. Any suspension for more than one week may be appealed to the Advisory Committee (appointees by the chairman). The decisions of the Advisory Committee shall be final and non-appealable. The chairman shall cast a deciding vote when necessary.
- c. Resolve all disputes in player recruiting, eligibility and territories between Posts

I-5: Meetings shall be as follows:

- a. In September to review the past season and any proposed rule changes.
- b. In February to collect all deposits and organize teams for the coming season.
- c. In March/April to adopt a budget, fix the franchise fee and discuss a schedule.
- d. In May to collect all outstanding fees, all player releases/waivers, and submit the final schedule.
- e. At any other time on call of the Chairman or League Director

I-6: A majority of the participating Posts shall constitute a quorum of all meetings.

I-7: Each participating Post shall have one vote. The Chairman or League Director may vote only in event of a tie. Any Post delinquent in any payment due this league shall have no vote.

I-8: The League shall annually determine a franchise fee. No Post shall be allowed to play in any game until the franchise fee is paid.

I-9: The League shall maintain its own finances. The treasurer shall maintain such bank accounts as directed by the chairman and render a financial report at each meeting.

All funds collected, including franchise fees, shall be remitted directly to the treasurer who shall deposit them promptly in the designated bank account.

All bills must be approved by the chairman and paid by check.

RULES OF PARTICIPATION

II-1: Recruiting shall be in accordance with National Rule, Plan B. League Director may add modifications for the benefit of fair play.

II-2: All Forms 2 and proof of birth date required under the National Rules shall be delivered to the League Director no later than June 7. Dual Participation forms are due at that time as well.

- a. Participation in other baseball leagues or programs of any type is prohibited except as outlined in the Dual Participation Form.
- b. Every player involved in dual participation must complete and submit a form for each team he is involved with. The League Director may suspend indefinitely any player discovered playing for another team without submitting a form.

Any player so suspended may appeal the suspension (within one week) to the advisory committee. The appeal must be in writing stating reasons why the suspension was not justified.

The Advisory Committee, by majority vote, may affirm, reverse or modify the ruling.

There shall be no further appeal of the ruling by the Advisory Committee.

ARTICLE III

PROGRAM

III-1: The league program shall be as follows:

- a. The league may be divided into two divisions or one large division, depending upon the number of teams.
- b. The league director shall determine the number of games to be played in the coming season including the number of inter-divisional games if any.
- c. Standings shall be determined as follows:
 - i. Two points for victory.
 - ii. One point for a tie.
 - iii. In the event of a tie in the final standings, standing shall be determined by head-to-head; if still tied, by flip of a coin.

III-2: The League Director will also coordinate umpires. Results of each game (or postponement) shall be reported by the winning manager to the director and to the Buffalo News within one hour of completion of the game.

III-3: The manager of the home team shall check playing conditions on his own field. If the field is unplayable, he shall notify the opposing manager not less than two hours prior to game time. If the opposing team's field is available and playable, all reasonable attempts will be made to transfer to that field. If neither field is playable the chief of umpires shall be notified (by the home team) not less than two hours prior to the game. If no such notice is given, the decision on playing conditions shall be left to the umpires.

III-4: It is a manager's responsibility to submit in March to the league director all dates for proms, graduations, banquets, etc., that will prohibit his team from playing on those particular dates. The director will attempt to honor all requests if possible. If an unexpected event arises after the schedule is completed where six or more players of a team are involved in a school activity demanding their attendance, a game may be cancelled (director's approval) and rescheduled at a mutually convenient date.

III-5: Teams must reschedule postponed games within 72 hours and notify the director. If not, director will reschedule the game. If one or both teams cannot make that time and date, one or both will forfeit the game.

III-6: Any team that forfeits a game will be fined \$100 by the league payable within seven days. Non-payment results in not being permitted to play the next scheduled game. A second forfeit will also result in a \$500 bond/deposit to the league prior to playing the ensuing year. If the team then has no forfeits that year, the \$500 will be refunded.

III-7: League playoffs will be as follows:

- a. The top four teams from each division (or top eight if only one division) based on points will be eligible for the playoffs.
- b. Those eight teams will play 4 quarterfinal games (1-8, 2-7, 3-6, 4-5). Those four winners will play two semifinal games.
- c. The winner of each semifinal will advance to the District Finals (best 2-3 games).

III-8: There will be two (2) All Star games that will be held no later than the first Wednesday in August. One All Star game will be for those players already graduated (Collegiate) from high school. The other All Star game (Scholastic) will be for those players yet to graduate.

FIELD RULES

IV-1: All games shall be played under the rules of the American League as published by MLB with the following exceptions:

- a. Players, coaches or managers will be ejected from the game for use of tobacco, profane language or abuse of equipment.
- b. Players, coaches or managers violating any of the National or Department rules pertaining to field conduct and safety may be removed from the game by the umpire. If a player is ejected resulting in the team to drop below nine (9) players, the team MUST forfeit. All ejections will be investigated by league director to see if a suspension is warranted.
- c. All games shall be seven (7) innings.
- d. High school re-entry (once per slot in batting order; only starters may re-enter) rule is in effect until district finals.
- e. DH is optional (pitcher only). Extra hitter (EH; bat 10) is optional. EH can only hit and not enter the game defensively. No EH in district finals.
- f. Two outs/Catcher speed-up rule will be utilized.
- g. A team must have nine (9) uniformed and able bodied players able to play each game or they forfeit. 12 players once a team reaches the state tournament.
- h. Each team shall supply two (2) new baseballs (approved by league) for each game. League will supply baseballs for playoffs and All-Star games.
- i. Each team will submit official lineup cards to the umpires and opposing team prior to each game. The card must include last names, positions, and uniform numbers. Any player not on the card cannot play in that game.
- j. The home team manager will lead both teams in the Pledge of Allegiance prior to each game with the exception of game 2 of doubleheaders.
- k. Wooden bats and stamped BB core bats only.
- l. National ALB pitching rules will be in effect with the maximum number of pitches of 105 per day per pitcher. Refer to National rules for required days rest between appearances. Each

team will count pitches and confirm that count after each half-inning. Home team book will be the official count in the event of any disputes

IV-2: There shall be a 15-minute grace period at the start of each game.

IV-3: Teams shall alternate players in pre-game batting practice if time allows for BP.

IV-4: The field shall be cleared fifteen (15) minutes before the game. The home team shall then have the field for five (5) minutes after which the visiting team shall have the field for five (5) minutes. The final five (5) minutes shall be reserved for the umpires who shall be asked to enforce this rule before reviewing ground rules.

IV-5: No player, manager or coach shall appear on the field during a game unless he is wearing a full American Legion approved uniform including shoulder patches.

IV-6: Only league certified umpires will be permitted to officiate games.

ARTICLE V

PROTESTS AND APPEALS

V-1: The advisory committee (league director, treasurer, chairman) will hear all protests.

V-2: Protests must be filed in writing with the league director within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game protested. Such protests shall be in writing and accompanied by a check payable to the league in the amount of \$25.00. If the protest is upheld \$20.00 will be refunded.

V-3: No protests of the exercise of the umpires' discretion (judgment decisions) will be entertained.

V-4: Protests relating to player eligibility must be called to the attention of the opposing team before the start of a game.

V-5: All protests MUST be filed with the head umpire in charge of the game at the time the play under protest occurs and before the next pitch, play or attempted play and must cite the specific rule or rules allegedly violated. Even if it is held that the protested decision violated the rules, no replay of the game will be ordered unless, in the opinion of the league director, the violation adversely affected the protesting team's chances of winning the game.

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENTS

VI-1: These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of participating Posts at any regularly convened meeting provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given to all participating Posts prior to the meeting at which action is to be taken.