

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK  
AMERICAN LEGION  
BASEBALL  
2024 BY-LAWS**



**of the 5th District  
As of **April 2024****

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# Section 1

## Administration/Membership

These By-Laws are intended to supplement the National and Department Rules governing American Legion Baseball and provide for the administration of American Legion Baseball at the District level and in no way be used to circumvent, revise, or amend the rules of the National Committee or the Department Baseball Committee. Any conflict of rules shall be resolved by reference to the Department and/or National Rules.

### **Section 1.1 Membership**

#### **Section 1.1.1 District Baseball Chairman**

An individual appointed by their respective District Commander to act as a liaison between their respective District Commander and the Department Baseball Committee. The Chairman is responsible for promoting American Legion baseball in their respective district and throughout the state.

#### **Section 1.1.2 District Baseball Director**

An individual appointed by the Baseball Committee to oversee and supervise the District baseball program, under the general rules/regulations of the Department Baseball Committee.

#### **Section 1.1.3 District Baseball Staff**

Each District Director can recommend an assistant/administrator to the baseball committee for approval. The District Director will define the responsibilities of the assistant/administrator.

#### **Section 1.1.4 County Chairman**

An individual appointed by their respective County Commander to promote a baseball program within their respective County and assist the District Chairman as needed.

#### **Section 1.1.5 Post Chairman**

An individual appointed by their respective Post Commander to supervise play of his Post entry and assure that all National and Department Rules are fully complied with, while being responsible for team conduct while participating with American Legion Baseball.

#### **Section 1.1.6 Resignations/Replacements**

Any Chairman or baseball official that fails to carry out their responsibilities or resigns may be replaced by the Department Baseball Chairman.

## **Section 1.2 Administration**

### **Section 1.2.1 District Director Responsibilities**

In addition to the powers and duties conferred upon by the Department Rules, the District Director:

- Shall resolve all disputes in player recruiting, eligibility and territories between Posts
- Shall promote the highest level of competition in their respective District
- Shall provide any District Chairman with the necessary information to be reported to the District Commander
- May suspend any team, coach, manager or player for conduct detrimental to the aims and principles of American Legion Baseball.
- May appoint committees or otherwise delegate authority

## **Section 1.3**

### **Section 1.3.1 5<sup>th</sup> District Baseball Committee**

The 5th District Baseball Committee shall be comprised of the following:

- A 5th District Baseball Director appointed by the Department of NY Baseball Chairman shall be the Chief Executive and Administrator of the Baseball Program within the 5th District of New York.
- A 5th District Baseball Chairman appointed by the 5th District Commander
- Three (3) Sub-Committee members who will be appointed by the 5th District Baseball Director.
  - Two subcommittee member will be selected primarily from Post Baseball Chairmen, with secondary options from the Post membership (either Legionnaires or SAL). An emphasis for the secondary options would be past Executive Committee Member, past Post Commanders, or past Post Baseball Chairmen.
  - One subcommittee member will be the District Prep League Administrator, as selected by the District Director
- At no time would any Post be represented on this committee more than once.

### **Section 1.3.2 5<sup>th</sup> District Baseball Committee Duties**

The 5th District Baseball Committee duties will consist of the following:

- The 5th District Baseball Committee shall decide all questions, disputes and protests within the 5th District.
- Managers, coaches or players who, in the opinion of the 5th District Director/Committee, conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner that would discredit this program may be removed by the 5th District Baseball Committee.

### **Section 1.3.3 Baseball Committee Member (Administrator)**

A volunteer appointed by the 5th District Baseball Director to assist, oversee and support the 5th District baseball program, within a given area of responsibility.

Any Committee member that fails to carry out their responsibilities or resigns may be replaced by the 5th District Baseball Director.

### **Section 1.3.4 Voting**

Voting on any matter requiring action by the 5th District Baseball Committee shall be by majority vote of the Committee members at a regularly or impromptu meeting of the Committee. The Committee may also vote via email or text.

### **Section 1.3.5 Amendments**

Voting on any matter requiring action shall be by a vote of the 5<sup>th</sup> District Baseball Committee

## **Section 2**

### **Team Eligibility**

#### **Section 2.1 Eligible Teams**

Membership shall be open to all Posts within the District. The District is defined as the Counties listed on the District page of the official Department website or any areas added by the Department Baseball Committee.

Any Post may enter a team for competition in this District by completing the new team application form (***with approval***) by the deadline as indicated in Section 10.

The impact on existing teams recruiting area will be given consideration.

Under no circumstances will more than one (1) team be able to use the same base school.

Teams without a Post sponsorship are also eligible in areas where there is not a Post sponsored team. Any team that files their final roster with less than 12 players listed will be ineligible for the District Tournament.

#### **Section 2.2 Team Organizational Structure**

Each team shall have a Manager appointed by the Post Commander and/or the Post Baseball Chairman. This Manger shall be indicated on the National Team Registration form. The team Manger or his appointed representative should be present at all District meetings.

The Post Commander and/or Post Baseball Chairman is responsible for supervising the play of his/her Post entry, for the team conduct while participating in American Legion Baseball and assure that all rules are fully complied with.

## Section 2.3 Forfeits

The refusal to compete fully in the League will result in the forfeiture of the right to play in the District Tournament.

If a team is found to have an illegal player all games that player participated in will be forfeited and count as a loss.

A team does need 9 players to start and finish a game. If a team falls below the (9) player limit that team will forfeit. Each player must be listed on the teams' current national roster submission.

If a team does not have the proper paperwork to the District Director by their first league game, all games that are scheduled will be a forfeit until all proper paperwork is filed.

Any team that forfeits two (2) league games will be disqualified from the District Tournament. Additional penalties may be imposed as determined by the District Director with input from Department Baseball Committee.

NOTE: Any forfeits due to pitch count rule violations will not be counted towards the maximum forfeit rule listed above

A forfeit in the District Tournament will cause offending team to be removed from tournament play and be ineligible for the District Tournament in the following season. The District Director with input from Department Baseball Committee will review the circumstances of the forfeit, with consideration of injuries and other unforeseen circumstances, in determining the team's eligibility for the next season's league play and post season play.

## Section 3

### Individual Player Eligibility

A player is eligible to compete in the American Legion Baseball program as long as he abides by the American Legion National By-Laws and Player Eligibility requirements. These requirements can be found in the National Rulebook, Rule 2.

The National Rulebook, Rule 4D Transfer rule states that *"A player released from a team must obtain permission on National Transfer Form #76 from that team's manager"*.

Beginning with the 2023 season there will be three (3) levels of American Legion Baseball in the Department of New York: Senior (19U) / Junior (17U) / Prep (15U).

A player is granted an automatic release at each of the following occurrences:

1. At each level of American Legion Baseball, for example a player that has previously played at the Prep Level is granted an automatic release when he advances to the Junior Level and then again when he advances to the Senior Level.
2. Anytime a player's residence change that results in a change in school, regardless of any change in level

No manager shall deny a form 76 release to any player that qualifies for an automatic release regardless of player age. Even though this release is automatic and must be granted, the form must be completed properly for the player to be eligible.

A player loses this right to an automatic release once the player appears on the official form 1 roster for any American Legion team at each level.

At the end of the season, if the player is not advancing to the next level, the player can request a release, but the manager does have the right to refuse. (Exception: the team previously played for is no longer participating in the league.)

No dual rostering of players is allowed.

Managers and Coaches are expected to have integrity and reflect American Legion values. District directors will be responsible for settling any disputes that are unable to be resolved at the team level.

Any effort or attempt to undermine, avoid, or abuse this rule in any way will be met with strong disciplinary action by the State Baseball Committee up to and including dismissal of the manager.

Players who graduated from high school shall play for the last American Legion team they played for. If that team no longer exists, then must play for the team nearest his parents' domicile.

## Section 4

### Senior League Rules

#### **Section 4.1**

The League will be comprised of a single division made up of ten (10) teams, aligned per previous year's final league regular season standings. If divisional play was used last season, there will be no consideration of divisions and playoff seeding. Teams will be ranked based on the previous season order of finish using winning percentages. If percentages are tied, then placement would be based on tiebreakers listed in section 8.1. The team numbers will be applied to the master schedule. Each team will play home and home with every other team for a total of eighteen (18) regular season games.

#### **Section 4.2**

Teams are permitted to play non-league contests during and after the completion of the league regular season up to the expiration of the team insurance certificate. In order to have insurance coverage, teams must require the non-league team to follow American Legion Baseball rules.

#### **Section 4.3**

In accordance with 5th District rules the league must notify the State Chairman of the District V representative by the date noted in section 10. It is agreed that District will use every possible date made available to us by the State Chairman to complete the season and to determine the District Champion. The League will complete its regular season by the date noted in section 10 and send their representatives to the District Tournament, which will begin on the date noted in section 10. Regular season games will take precedence over any practice or exhibition games, if necessary, such games will be canceled to ensure completion of regular season games.

#### **Section 4.4**

Game time shall be 6:00 PM weekdays and 2:00 PM Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays unless another time is specified. The maximum time allowed between

the completion of game 1 of a doubleheader and the start of game 2 shall be no longer than 30 minutes, provided the teams are the same for both games. Home teams are required to be off the playing field 25 minutes prior to game time. Visiting teams warm up once the home team warm up is completed. Both team managers and umpires should meet at home plate 10 minutes prior to game time for ground rules and lineup exchange. This will allow time for the National Anthem and the Code of Conduct to be completed and the game started on time.

Sample schedule based on 6PM start time:

5:10 PM - Home team takes I/O

5:25 PM - Home team off field

5:30 PM - Visiting team takes I/O

5:45 PM - Visiting team off the field

5:50 PM - Ground rules reviewed at home plate

5:55 PM – Code of Conduct & National Anthem (or Pledge of Allegiance)

6:00 PM – First Pitch

#### **Section 4.5**

**Postponed, Rained Out, or Suspended Games must be rescheduled within 48 hours.** The home team is responsible for contacting the opposing team and shall notify the District Director of their decision **within 72 hours**. The District Director will contact the managers concerned if this is not accomplished within the time limits prescribed. Additionally, the District Director has the authority to revise the schedule in the final week of regular season play as may be necessary. Rescheduled league games take precedence over non-league games. If necessary, teams must be willing to postpone or cancel non-league games to complete the required league schedule.

#### **Section 4.6**

A suspended game tied after 5 innings or more complete innings will be completed from point of suspension. Continuation games should be scheduled prior to another regularly scheduled game. Approval for additional umpire fees is required from the District Director to schedule a continuation game as a stand-alone game.

#### **Section 4.7**

The home team is responsible for field conditions, if applicable.

#### **Section 4.8**

Home team scorekeeper will be the official scorekeeper. Care must be taken that only competent scorekeepers are used.

Each team will be required to designate an official score keeper to the District Director before the team's first game. Any changes throughout the season should be reported to the District Director.

*NOTE: All teams MUST, WITH NO EXCEPTIONS, enter game day results into the web site, [www.nylegionbaseball.com](http://www.nylegionbaseball.com) before noon the following day of the completed game.*

#### **Section 4.9**

The home team shall notify umpires if the weather or field conditions warrant postponement of the game. Umpires and visiting team will be notified of postponement at least 90 minutes prior to game time. It should be noted, in

cases where teams must travel a great distance, 90 minutes will not be sufficient and earlier notification must be affected. Failure to notify umpires will cause the home team to be assessed the umpire fees.

#### **Section 4.10**

For any non-weather-related changes to the game schedule (both league and non-league), made after a date agreed upon by the Assignor and the District, the offending team will incur a fine based on the following schedule:

- First offense - \$20
- Second offense - \$40
- Third offense and any thereafter - \$60

The umpire assignor will notify the District of any non-weather-related changes that should incur this penalty. It will be up to the 5th District Baseball Committee to determine which team is responsible for the fee. All fines must be paid in full no later than 48 hours after the late schedule charge. Any teams not in compliance will forfeit their next league game and all games until the fine is paid in full. Fines must be paid for the team to retain its membership in the league.

#### **Section 4.11**

Home team managers are responsible for paying BOTH umpires via cash or check. Managers should be prepared to pay both umpires when providing the game balls prior to the pre-game conference. The home team is responsible for providing game balls. If a game is rained out before it begins, the umpires are to be paid half fee. This should be reported to the 5th District Director immediately. If a game is rained out before its completion, the home team will not be responsible for paying the umpires for the makeup game. This will be handled by the 5th District Director. At NO time should a voucher be used.

#### **Section 4.12**

If the responsible team does not pay both umpires prior to the start of the game the umpires are to report this to their assignor, who shall inform the District Director. The first offense will be a written warning with an opportunity for the team to provide an explanation. The second offense will result in the suspension of the team manager/head coach (game coach) for the next league game. The third offense will result in a forfeit of the game that involved the third offense. The contest will end when the losing team is behind by (10) ten or more runs and has had at least (5) five opportunities on offense (only applicable in a seven (7) inning game).

#### **Section 4.13**

Teams that fail to reschedule games, elect to not complete all regular season contests, or elect to not participate in the playoffs (should they qualify) after the declaration date of 7/1, shall be fined \$500. Such fine must be paid by the next league meeting for the team to retain its membership in the league.

#### **Section 4.14**

A team may apply for reinstatement for the next season. An application for reinstatement will include a \$500 reinstatement fee that must be paid by 12/31. This fee will not be refunded nor, will it be applied to the upcoming league fee.

The team may then address the 5th District Committee before voting on the reinstatement application.

#### **Section 4.15**

American Legion pitching rules will be enforced throughout the season. Any violation of the pitching rules will result in the forfeit of the game in which the violation occurred. The complete list of penalties is listed in the Department Bylaws. In order to validate the violation, the game must be protested prior to the conclusion of the game. The protest will be presented to the District V baseball committee for a final ruling. All games played in or out of the league will be considered when applying the pitching rule. Any forfeits due to pitch count rule violations will not be counted towards the maximum forfeit rule in section 2.3. All ejections/suspensions due to pitch count rule violations will count towards the allowable limits in section 4.21.

#### **Section 4.16**

All players are required to wear double ear- flap protective helmets when at bat and when running bases. Catchers are required to wear protective helmets and masks with throat protectors in game. When warming up pitchers on the field or in the bullpen, a catcher must wear a mask. All Coaches will wear a helmet when in the coaching boxes. **Bat Persons and Minor Age Scorekeepers must wear a double ear flap protective helmet at all times.** Each team is required to maintain an appropriately supplied First Aid Kit.

#### **Section 4.17**

Base School Rule (adopted 4-10-86). Each team must have a base school. The Base School will be the school within the community (school district). No team shall have more than one base school and no teams may share the same base school.

#### **Section 4.18**

Waivers granted will be valid throughout each individual player's remaining eligibility at the level (Senior, Junior, Prep) that the release (Form 76) is valid for. Enrollments will be added to the enrollment of the team only for the school that the player is recruited from.

#### **Section 4.19**

Players will be allowed dual participation in accordance with National Rules. The release must be approved by the District Director prior to the player participating in a game. Any contest that a player participates in prior to the release being approved by the Director will be automatically forfeited. A copy of the release must be filed with the District Director on the regular form available from the National website and furthermore will not be accepted unless signed by the current manager. This rule will apply in all cases not in conflict with National Rules on Recruiting.

#### **Section 4.20**

There will be no Non-Roster Players allowed on any District V Team. If a Non-Roster Player participates in any league or non-league contest, the team forfeits their last league victory, and the Manager will be suspended according to the League Suspension Rule.

## Section 4.21

- Suspended players should be listed on the lineup card and identified as ineligible to participate in the contest but remain eligible for ejection. This should be communicated to the umpires and the opposing team manager at the time lineup cards are exchanged.
- In the event a game is called before becoming an official game, any ejections will be enforced along with any required suspensions based on the criteria listed below
- The team Manager must report any player or coach ejection directly to the 5<sup>th</sup> District Director within 24 hours of the ejection.
  - The report should include the players or coaches name and uniform number
  - This can be reported via text, email or phone call
  - Failure to report this information will result in the Manager being suspended based on the criteria listed below
- Failure of a team to uphold the suspensions of players or coaches as determined by the criteria listed below will result in in the Manager being suspended for all games that the ineligible player or coach participated in
  - Any game that an ineligible player or coach participated in will be deemed a forfeit
- Any player suspended from a game for physical violence will not be allowed to play again until the Problem is reviewed by the District Director. A decision will be made before the next scheduled game.
- Player suspensions:
  - Any time a player is ejected from a game, an assistant coach is automatically restricted to the bench/dugout
    - Bench/Dugout restriction is defined as being prohibited from leaving the bench/dugout for any reason, other than to attend to an injured player. A restricted assistant coach remains eligible for ejection.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Ejection: Sit out the following league game.
    - Additionally, an assistant coach (excluding scorekeeper) will be restricted to the bench/dugout for the following league game
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ejection: Sit out the following three (3) league games.
    - Additionally, an assistant coach (excluding scorekeeper) will be restricted to the bench/dugout for the following three (3) league games
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ejection: Will be suspended for the rest of the season.
    - Additionally, an assistant coach (excluding scorekeeper) will be restricted to the bench/dugout for the rest of the season
- Assistant Coach's suspensions:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Ejection: Sit out the following league game.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ejection: Sit out the following three (3) league games.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ejection: Will be suspended for the rest of the season.
- Managers or Head Coach suspensions:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Ejection: No penalty (unless for pitching rule violation).
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ejection: Sit out the following league game.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Ejection: Will sit out the following three (3) league games.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Ejection: Will be suspended for the rest of the season.
  - Note that assistant coaches will be subject to the same ejection/suspension rules as players.

- All suspensions are in effect and will run through the District Playoffs and carry into the next season if applicable.

#### **Section 4.22**

Any Coach, Manager, Trainer in uniform or in street clothes who is an active participant in the game will be ejected if an act of consuming alcoholic beverage is detected. In all instances ejection from the game means departure from the ballpark environs and being **“out of sight, out of sound”**. Out of sight, out of sound, does not apply to the players. Player must remain on the bench for the remainder of the game. If the player continues their bad conduct the umpire may add additional ejections and ejection rules will apply. Violation of this rule will subject the individuals to further suspension.

#### **Section 4.23**

Parents ejected from a game must leave the environs of the ballpark and remain **“out of sight, out of sound”**. If a parent gets ejected a second time, that parent will be prevented from watching their son play for the rest of the son's Legion Baseball career. If the parent is within sight or sound of the game, the umpire will stop the game, direct the team that the parent belongs to and give that coach/manager 15 minutes to be considered out of sight, out of sound, or the opposition will win by forfeit with no appeal. If neither team claims the protester, the umpire may stop the game and a forfeit awarded the visiting team.

#### **Section 4.24**

Players are not permitted to consume alcoholic beverages while in uniform or any part that identifies them as a member of any American Legion Baseball Team. Disregard of this rule will result in suspension of said players.

#### **Section 4.25**

The use of any form of tobacco by a player, coach, manager or umpire while on the playing field, benches, in the bullpen or dugouts is prohibited. Any individual violating this rule will be ejected from the game.

#### **Section 4.26**

All rosters and forms will be reviewed by the 5th District Director for compliance. Any team found to be using an ineligible player(s) will forfeit any game in which that player appeared or appears in the future. The player is ineligible for the remainder of the season. The team that used an ineligible player is not allowed to use that roster spot for another player that season.

#### **Section 4.27**

All teams will submit, to the 5th District Director, the required forms as outlined in section 10 by the date noted in section 10. Any team not in compliance will forfeit any and all league games until all requirements are met.

#### **Section 4.28**

It is the home team's responsibility, that the American Legion Baseball Code of Conduct will be recited before every league game as well as District V tournament games. It is to be conducted at home plate just before the start of the game, after the coaches' exchange line-up cards with the umpires and the ground rules are covered, and PRIOR to the national anthem. BOTH teams

should be lined up on the baselines. It is up to the home team to choose a person to lead the code; it can be a legionnaire, coach, player, parent, etc. The person leading the code should instruct the players to 'repeat after me', then read each line and pause to allow the players to repeat.

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

#### **Section 4.29**

Umpires for league games will be scheduled by the league.

Each coach is responsible for scheduling umpires for any non-league home games with MVBUA Assignor Lon Thrasher at [LThrasher@roadrunner.com](mailto:LThrasher@roadrunner.com).

This carries an assignment fee of \$6 per game.

The umpire assignor will invoice each team individually.

Umpire fees will be, per contract:

Year	Seniors (7inn)	Juniors (7inn)	Prep (7inn) 2-man	Prep (7inn) 1-man
2023	\$83/man	\$73/man	\$66/man	\$100/game
2024	\$86/man	\$76/man	\$66/man	\$100/game
2025	\$90/man	\$80/man	\$70/man	\$105/game

A nine (9) inning game will be \$100/man for Seniors and \$90/man for Juniors for the duration of the contract.

#### **Section 4.30**

Any team that has a change in manager must meet with the District Director and District Baseball Chairman. This meeting should include the Post Commander, Post Baseball Chairman, and the new Manager.

## **Section 5**

### **Protest / Appeals**

Reference Department By-Laws Section 5 for all protest and appeals procedures.

## **Section 6**

### **Junior League Rules**

The rules stated in Section 4 apply to Junior teams unless specifically stated under this section.

### **Section 6.1**

The League will be comprised of one (1) division having fifteen (15) teams, aligned according to previous year's final league regular season winning percentages. The team numbers will be applied to the master schedule. Each team will play each other once with an additional game against other teams in their group for a total of eighteen (18) league games.

## **Section 7**

### **Playing Regulations**

#### **Section 7.1 Baseballs**

All District League games must be played with the approved ball as indicated in the Department By-Laws

#### **Section 7.2 Bats**

Follow National Rule

#### **Section 7.3 Courtesy Runners**

##### **Section 7.3.1 Seniors**

Must check only one (1) option below:

- The courtesy runner rule as defined in section 7.3.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season only
- The courtesy runner rule as defined in section 7.3.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season and District Playoffs
- No courtesy runner rule will be allowed

##### **Section 7.3.2 Juniors**

Teams have the option to use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time. The umpire in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation and announce it to the official scorer. For speed-up purposes, it is recommended that the courtesy runner be used with two men out in all games.

##### **CLARIFICATION**

The courtesy runner rule does not apply to a pinch-hitter for the catcher unless the catcher has been re-entered. A team may not use the same runner for the pitcher and catcher in the same inning. The courtesy runner may not be removed from a base to become a pinch hitter. A player removed from the game may not be used as a courtesy runner. Should the courtesy runner pinch hit, pinch run or enter the game at any position, he will no longer be eligible to be a courtesy runner. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered an illegal substitute.

## **Section 7.4 Designated Hitter**

### **Section 7.4.1 Seniors**

Must check only one (1) option below:

- The designated hitter rule as defined in section 7.4.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season only
- The designated hitter rule as defined in section 7.4.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season and District Playoffs
- The designated hitter will only be used for the pitcher as published in the Official Baseball Rules

### **Section 7.4.2 Juniors**

A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game.

A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the starting lineup. A designated hitter for said player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer.

Failure to declare a designated hitter prior to the game precludes the use of a designated hitter in that game.

If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designed hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter.

A designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order.

No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation.

#### **CLARIFICATION**

The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game when:

- a) the defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch-runs for the designated hitter, or
- b) the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

## **Section 7.5 Re-entry Rule**

### **Section 7.5.1 Seniors**

Must check only one (1) option below:

- The re-entry rule as defined in section 7.5.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season only
- The re-entry rule as defined in section 7.5.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season and District Playoffs

- No re-entry rule will be allowed

### **Section 7.5.2 Juniors**

Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-enter once, including a player who was the designated hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may NOT re-enter.

#### CLARIFICATION

Keep in mind that once the POSITION of DH is eliminated in the game it cannot be used again, however the PLAYER that was the DH is eligible to re-enter in the same position in the batting order for the substitute player that replaced him in the lineup, however he must play a defensive position.

### **Section 7.6 Pregame procedures**

Each American Legion Baseball contest should be preceded by the following:

After the umpires have covered the ground rules, the American Legion Baseball Code of Conduct should be recited with both teams lined up on the baseline. After the code of conduct either the National Anthem should be played, or the Pledge of Allegiance should be recited.

## **Section 8**

### **Sr. & Jr. District Tournament**

#### **Section 8.1 Tiebreaker Rules**

The following tie breaker rules apply to determine the standings within each division.

- Two-way tie for any seeding position.
  - Best record of the deadlocked teams against each other.
  - Best record against play-off teams.
  - Best record within their division.
  - Best record against teams seeded above you (based on win percentage with no accord for divisions)
  - Runs allowed in games amongst teams tied
  - Runs allowed for the year against division opponents
  - Runs allowed for the year against league opponents
  - Runs allowed for the year against playoff teams
- Three-way tie for any seeding position: Same rule as above
- Four-way tie for any seeding position: Same rule as above

#### **Section 8.1.2**

All ties for seeds will be determined as defined within this section. No additional games will be needed to break a tie for seeding position only. In no case, should a team be eliminated from the playoffs by a tiebreaker without playing a game, unless the teams tied have played each other twice with the same team winning both contests. In this case the winning team will advance to the playoffs without an additional game. The other team will be eliminated.

- If two (2) teams are tied for a Playoff Spot with an identical winning percentage at the conclusion of the season, the tie shall be broken as follows:
  - A one-game playoff shall be played on the tiebreaker date noted in section 10 to determine which team qualifies for the post season tournament.
  - The site of the game would be determined by head-to-head competition from regular season
  - The winner of the game shall be seeded in the same manner as the other playoff teams
- If three (3) teams are tied for a Playoff Spot with an identical winning percentage at the conclusion of the season, the tie for 4th place shall be broken as follows:
  - A two-game playoff shall be played on the tiebreaker date noted in section 10 to determine which team qualifies for the post season tournament
  - The site of the games will be decided by coin toss.
  - Teams will be labeled "A", "B" and "C" based on a draw. First game will feature team A vs. team B.
  - The second game will feature the winner of the first game will play team C.
  - Home team will be decided by head-to-head competition from regular season.
  - The winner of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) game shall be seeded in the same manner as the other playoff teams.
- If four (4) teams are tied for the 4th Playoff Spot with an identical winning percentage at the conclusion of the season, the tie for 4th place shall be broken as follows:
  - A three-game playoff shall be played on the tiebreaker date noted in section 6 to determine which team qualifies for the post season tournament. The site of the games will be decided by coin toss.
  - The four teams will be designated Club "A," "B," "C," and "D" based on a draw.
  - Team A will play Team B.
  - Team C will play Team D.
  - The second game will feature the winners of the first game.
  - Home team will be decided by head-to-head competition from regular season.
  - The winner of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) game shall be seeded in the same manner as the other playoff teams.

## **Section 8.2 Senior Tournament Format**

- The top six (6) teams will advance to the District Championship Tournament based on final regular season standings, as determined by winning percentage.
- League playoffs for teams 7-10 in final standings
  - Single elimination 8 vs 9 / 7 vs 10
  - Winners will advance to the District Playoffs
    - Higher seeded team will be the 7<sup>th</sup> seed
    - Lower seeded team will be the 8<sup>th</sup> seed

- Note that seeds are determined from regular season and the results of the league playoff game will have no impact on seed
    - To be held on July 16 at higher seed
- District Playoffs
  - 8 team double elimination tournament using ALB National bracket

### Section 8.2.1 Senior Tournament Rules

The American Legion Baseball Championship Tournament will be held starting on the date noted in section 10.

#### Rules of Conduct and Tournament:

- All Games will be seven (7) innings.
- All weekday games should start at: 5:15 PM, however the home team can request an exception from the District Director for a different start time if field conditions dictate (sun, darkness, lights, weather)
- Teams will be at the field one (1) hour, prior to scheduled game
- No outside coolers or food or drink are allowed
- Teams will split the umpire fees for each game, to be paid prior to the start of each game unless directed otherwise by District personnel
- A copy of your starting line-up and substitutes must be taken to the press box twenty (20) minutes prior to the start of the game. Only names presented on the lineup card to the Homeplate umpire are eligible to play that specific game. Managers are urged to place all rostered players on lineup card BEFORE meeting at Homeplate to cover ground rules.
- Each team will retrieve foul balls on their side of the field at neutral site games
- Any profanity, throwing of equipment or any other un-sportsman like conduct by a player, coaches or manager will result in ejection from the game. (League ejection rules apply)
- Any Physical abuse from Coaches, Players or Spectators will result in being thrown out for the rest of the Tournament and not allowed on the field for the rest of the Tournament and **must be out of sight and out of sound**.
- A 10 Run Rule after 5 innings unless the home team is ahead after 4 ½ will be in effect for the Tournament.
- Any game suspended due to weather, lighting failure or darkness will be resumed at the exact point of the original game unless the game is official (completed 4 ½ or 5 innings). The completion of a suspended game is a continuation of the original game. No innings shall be replayed.
- The Junior ALB DH rule, player re-entry rule, courtesy runner, college slide and collision rules apply
- All teams in the tournament will provide one (1) dozen new baseballs
- If the length of the previous game goes past the start time of the next game, all other games will start one half hour after the completion of the game.
- All teams must have 12 players available to play in every game they have been scheduled to play, unless receive prior approval from 5<sup>th</sup> District Director.
- A team that forfeits any game will not be eligible for the championship tournament next year.
- The higher seeded team will be the home team in all games with the following exceptions:
  - Game 14 the undefeated team will be the home team
  - Game 15 in which the teams will flip a coin to determine the home team

## Section 8.2.2 Senior Tournament Schedule

The District Tournament will follow the National eight (8) team double elimination bracket. Teams will be determined as described in this section. If the higher seed is not able to use its home field, there are fields that will be available depending on that team's place in the playoffs. If there is more than one team that needs to use an alternate field, the field selection will be made in the same order as the seeds, with the highest seed selecting first.

Thursday July 18

- Game 1: #1 seed vs #8 seed at 7PM @ Delutis Field 1
- Game 2: #2 seed vs #7 seed at 4PM @ Delutis Field 1
- Game 3: #4 seed vs #5 seed at 1PM @ Delutis Field 2
- Game 4: #3 seed vs #6 seed at 1PM @ Delutis Field 1

Friday July 19

- Game 5: Loser game 1 vs Loser game 3 at 1PM @ Delutis Field 1 (loser eliminated)
- Game 6: Loser game 2 vs Loser game 4 at 1PM @ Delutis Field 2 (loser eliminated)
- Game 7: Winner game 1 vs Winner game 3 at 7PM @ Delutis Field 1
- Game 8: Winner game 2 vs Winner game 4 at 4PM @ Delutis Field 1

Saturday July 20

- Game 9: Winner game 6 vs Loser game 7 @ Delutis Field @ 2PM (loser eliminated)
- Game 10: Winner game 5 vs Loser game 8 @ Delutis Field @ 5PM (loser eliminated)
- Game 11: Winner game 7 vs Winner game 8 @ Delutis Field @ 730PM

Sunday July 21

- Game 12: Winner game 9 vs Loser game 11 @ 5PM Delutis Field
- Game 13: Winner game 10 vs Winner game 11 @ 730PM Delutis Field
  - **NOTE 1:** Pairing for Game 12 and 13 will not match previous opponents against each other unless absolutely necessary
  - **NOTE 2:** If three teams remain after Game 13, the winner of Game 11 automatically draws the bye in Game 14.

Monday July 22

- Game 14: Winner Game 12 vs. Winner Game 13 @ Delutis Field @ 5PM (Possible Champion Declared)
- Game 15: (if necessary) @ Delutis Field @ 730PM (CHAMPION DECLARED)

Tuesday July 23 - Rain Date @ Delutis Field

## Section 8.3 Junior Tournament Format

- The top six (6) teams will advance to the District Championship Tournament based on final regular season standings, as determined by winning percentage.
- League playoffs for teams 7-10 in final standings

Revised 5/10/2024

- Single elimination 8 vs 9 / 7 vs 10
- Winners will advance to the District Playoffs
  - Higher seeded team will be the 7<sup>th</sup> seed
  - Lower seeded team will be the 8<sup>th</sup> seed
  - Note that seeds are determined from regular season and the results of the league playoff game will have no impact on seed
- To be held on July 21 at higher seed
- District Playoffs
  - 8 team double elimination tournament using ALB National bracket

### Section 8.3.1 Junior Tournament Rules

The American Legion Baseball Championship Tournament will be held starting on the date noted in section 10.

#### Rules of Conduct and Tournament:

- All Games will be 7 innings.
- Teams will be at the field one (1) hour, prior to scheduled game.
- No outside coolers or food or drink are allowed
- Teams will split the umpire fees for each game, to be paid prior to the start of each game
- Each team participating in the tournament will provide four (4) new baseballs prior to the start of each game
  - Each team will retrieve foul balls on their side of the field
- A copy of your starting line-up and substitutes must be taken to the press box twenty (20) minutes prior to the start of the game. Only names presented on the lineup card to the Homeplate umpire are eligible to play that specific game. Managers are urged to place all rostered players on lineup card BEFORE meeting at Homeplate to cover ground rules.
- Any profanity, throwing of equipment or any other un-sportsman like conduct by a player, coaches or manager will result in ejection from the game. (League ejection rules apply)
- Any Physical abuse from Coaches, Players or Spectators will result in being thrown out for the rest of the Tournament and not allowed on the field for the rest of the Tournament and will be placed **“out of sight and out of sound”**.
- A 10 Run Rule after 5 innings unless the home team is ahead after 4 ½ will be in effect for the Tournament.
- Any game suspended due to weather, lighting failure or darkness will be resumed at the exact point of the original game unless the game is official (completed 4 ½ or 5 innings). The completion of a suspended game is a continuation of the original game. No innings shall be replayed.
- The same JR rules apply, include DH for anyone, re-entry & catcher courtesy runner and pitching limits
- If the length of the previous game goes past the start time of the next game, all other games will start approximately one half hour after the completion of the game.
- All teams must have 12 players available to play in every game they have been scheduled to play, unless receive prior approval from the 5<sup>th</sup> District Director.
- A team that forfeits any game will not be eligible for the championship tournament next year.

- The higher seeded team will be the home team in all games with the following exceptions: Game 6 the undefeated team will be the home team & Game 7 home team will be determined by coin toss

### Section 8.3.2 Junior Tournament Schedule

The District Tournament will follow the National eight (8) team double elimination bracket. Teams will be determined as described in this section. If the higher seed is not able to use its home field, there are fields that will be available depending on that team's place in the playoffs. If there is more than one team that needs to use an alternate field, the field selection will be made in the same order as the seeds, with the highest seed selecting first.

Tuesday July 23

- Game 1: #3 seed vs #6 seed at higher seed
- Game 2: #4 seed vs #5 seed at higher seed
- Game 3: #2 seed vs #7 seed at higher seed
- Game 4: #1 seed vs #8 seed at higher seed

Wednesday July 24

- Game 5: Loser game 1 vs Loser game 3 at higher seed (elimination)
- Game 6: Loser game 2 vs Loser game 4 at higher seed (elimination)
- Game 7: Winner game 1 vs Winner game 3 at higher seed @ 4PM
- Game 8: Winner game 2 vs Winner game 4 at higher seed @ 7PM

Thursday July 25

- Game 9: Winner game 6 vs Loser game 7 at higher seed (elimination)
- Game 10: Winner game 5 vs Loser game at higher seed (elimination)
- Game 11: Winner game 7 vs Winner game 8 at higher seed

Friday July 26

- Game 12: Winner game 9 vs Loser game 11 at 5PM @ Murnane Field
- Game 13: Winner game 10 vs Winner game 11 at 730PM @ Murnane Field
  - **NOTE 1:** Pairing for Game 12 and 13 will not match previous opponents against each other unless absolutely necessary
  - **NOTE 2:** If three teams remain after Game 13, the winner of Game 11 automatically draws the bye in Game 14.

Saturday July 27

- Game 14: Winner Game 12 vs. Winner Game 13 5PM @ Murnane Field  
(Possible Champion Declared)
- Game 15: (if necessary) @ 730PM Murnane Field  
(CHAMPION DECLARED)

Sunday July 28 - Rain Date @ Murnane Field

# Prep League Rules

- 9.1 Beginning with 2023, a new division of American Legion Baseball is created and hereby referred to as Prep Division.
- 9.2 Players will be eligible to play in Prep Division beginning with the minimum eligible age to play American Legion Baseball through age 15. **For 2024, this would include birth years 2009-2010-2011.** Districts have the option to restrict the ages below what is stated here. To do so the age specification **MUST** be included in the District Section 9 of these Bylaws. There is no way to make the age older than 15.
- 9.3 Playing rules.
1. The courtesy runner rule as defined in section 7.3.2
  2. The designated hitter rule as defined in section 7.4.2
  3. The re-entry rule as defined in section 7.5.2
  4. There will be **NO** extra hitter allowed at any time.
  5. The pitch count rule as defined in section 7.9 of the Department bylaws is required for the entire season.
  6. **Modifying the rules in any way is not allowed, even if both coaches agree to it.**
- 9.4 Insurance
- All Prep Division teams must purchase ALB insurance through the team registration site as a junior team. See Department bylaws section 2.6 for more information.
- 9.6 Registration
- All Prep Division teams must register on the National Website as a Junior team and **MUST** include Prep after the team's name to indicate that this is a Prep level team. Currently National does not have the Prep level team setup on its website. See Department bylaws section 2.6 for more information.
- 9.7 Roster eligibility
- Roster limits and eligibility follow National Rules. Players new to American Legion Baseball have the one-time option to select which team to play for.
- The Prep level is designed to allow players coming out of Little League to have a place to play in American Legion Baseball. A concentrated effort should be made to focus on a teams' base school players.
- 9.8 There will be no Department level tournament for Prep Division
- 9.9 Baseballs must be stamped with American Legion emblem.

## Section 9 – District Custom Section

The rules stated in Section 4 apply to Prep teams unless specifically stated under this section.

### 9.10 Player Eligibility

In order to be eligible, all players must be born on Aug 1, 2009, or later.

### 9.11 Bats – MUST FOLLOW NATIONAL RULE

1. Wood bat. The bat must be a smooth, rounded stick not more than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter at its thickest part nor more than 42 inches in length. An indentation in the end of the bat up to 1 inch in depth is permitted (cupped bats).
2. Non-wood bats. Metal, ceramic, composite or graphite bats may be used provided they do not exceed 36 inches in length and the maximum diameter is  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inches.
3. Any non-wood bat must have the BBCOR certification code marked on the barrel of the bat.
4. Any non-wood bat that does not display the approved certification mark or in the umpire's judgment has been altered shall be removed from the game, and the player and team manager shall be ejected.

### 9.12 Uniforms - MUST FOLLOW NATIONAL RULE

Players and coaches must be in uniforms of the same color and style when competing in regular season department (state) and national tournaments.

1. Any player, coach or manager who does not have an American Legion Baseball emblem on either the left sleeve or left chest of his uniform shirt, wind shirt or jacket will be removed from the game.
2. The front of the uniform shirt may carry lettering that identifies the post, department, town city, community, or sponsor that the team represents. Such lettering must be acceptable to the sponsoring department.
3. Approved American Legion Baseball emblem options include patches available through Emblem Sales, sublimation or screen printed onto the uniform shirt.

### 9.13 Teams are permitted to play non-league contests during and after the completion of the league regular season up to the expiration of the team insurance certificate.

### 9.14 The League will be comprised of one (1) division having ten (10) teams, aligned according to previous year's final league regular season winning percentages. The team numbers will be applied to the master schedule. All teams will play each other at least once. All teams will play four (4) home and home series and then five (5) additional single games. The schedule will be provided to each team for a total of thirteen (13) league games.

### 9.15 Game schedule

The League schedule will be determined by the Prep division administrator. The schedule details will be as follows:

- Games will be on Tuesdays & Thursdays each week beginning on June 11 & end July 25
  - Exception there will be no regular season games on Thursday July 4th

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- If fields are an issue, then OK to swap home dates as needed
  - In order to do this must confirm with opponent, make change with umpire assignor (Lon), notify administrator (Greg) and update website
- Rain outs
  - Tuesday rain out will be automatically scheduled for Wednesday
  - Thursday rain out will be automatically scheduled for the next Monday
  - Note at the end of the season games can be made up on July 26-27-28-29
  - All games (regardless of importance) should be completed by July 29.
  - Makeups should be confirmed by both coaches when the original game is cancelled. Umpire assignor (Lon) will need to be notified. He will NOT automatically reschedule the game without notification.
- Suspended game
  - A suspended game tied after 5 or more complete innings will be completed from point of suspension prior to the next regularly scheduled game (if any).
  - There will be NO 5 inning double header games allowed.
- Pregame schedule
  - Sample schedule based on 6PM start time:
  - 5:10 PM - Home team takes I/O
  - 5:25 PM - Home team off field
  - 5:30 PM - Visiting team takes I/O
  - 5:45 PM - Visiting team off the field
  - 5:50 PM - Ground rules reviewed at home plate
  - 5:55 PM – Code of Conduct & National Anthem (or Pledge of Allegiance)
  - 6:00 PM – First Pitch

9.16 – Umpires

Each team will be responsible for paying (cash or check) an umpire at the start of each game.

Should there only be a single umpire the teams should each pay half the fee.

Umpire fees:

	2 umpires (Each team pays one umpire amount listed below)	1 umpire (Each team pays half the amount listed below)
2024	\$66	\$100
2025	\$70	\$105

Run rule specific to Prep Division only: The contest will end when the losing team is behind by 15 (fifteen) or more runs has had at least (4) four opportunities on offense, OR (10) ten or more runs and has had at least (5) five opportunities on offense.

9.17 – Home team to provide baseballs. Must be stamped with American Legion emblem.

9.18 – Playoffs

Revised 5/10/2024

All teams will make the playoffs. The playoffs will be single elimination until the championship series which will be a best of three series.

Teams will be seeded based on winning percentage.

Round 1: July 30 @ 5:30

- 10 seed @ 9 Seed (teams do not advance)
- 8 seed @ 1 seed
- 7 seed @ 2 seed
- 6 seed @ 3 seed
- 5 seed @ 4 seed

Round 2: July 31 @ 5:30 @ higher seed

- Lowest seed remaining vs highest seed remaining
- 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest seed remaining vs 2<sup>nd</sup> highest seed remaining

Championship series to be held at Murnane Field dates TBD between Aug 1-4

- Winners of round 2 will play best of three championship series.
- All team should make sure that their schedule is clear for this weekend

## Section 10

### Important Dates

- **December 31<sup>st</sup>** – New Team Application form (including non-refundable deposit of \$500) submission deadline. All new teams must be approved by the District Director. A meeting with the Post Commander, Post Baseball Chairman, and Team Manager is required as part of the review process.
- **December 31<sup>st</sup>** – Deadline for all returning teams to commit to league participation
- **April 15<sup>th</sup>** – District By-Laws must be submitted to Department Chairman
- **May 15<sup>th</sup>** – All teams must be registered electronically
- **May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Deadline for Insurance Coverage

**Rosters must be submitted online before first scheduled game. All 76's and 77s need to be properly approved before player is added to the roster.**

- **June 1<sup>st</sup>** – Copy of District Tournament format and League format submitted to Department Chairman
- **June 1<sup>st</sup>** – Regular Season games may be played
- **June 1<sup>st</sup>** – (or before first scheduled game) - National Forms 1 must be filed electronically. Following items must be received by District Administrator:
  - Printed roster from National website
  - Individual player form 2's — team to retain original

- Birth Certificates – copies only (for new players)
- Form 76 & 77 for current season only – must be approved before the player participates in a game
- For those that wish to submit electronically please send a total of 4 separate files in the following format
  - **File 1** – roster printout from National website
  - **File 2** – player form 2's in alphabetical order
  - **File 3** – Birth certificates in alphabetical order
  - **File 4** – Any form 76 or 77 (new this season) in alphabetical order.
- **June 10<sup>th</sup>** – Forward All National Entry Forms 2 and supporting Documents and Coaches Code of Ethics form to the District Director. (Can be submitted electronically but if submitting hard copies then must submit two (2) copies of all documents)
- **June 20<sup>th</sup>** – District Director forward copies of National Form 2 & supporting Documents to respective Program Director
- **June 21<sup>st</sup>** – Last date to make changes to roster
- **June 28<sup>th</sup>** – All team roster will be approved and submitted to National
- **July 13<sup>th</sup>** – Legion Day @ Murnane Field
- **July 14** – Last day of District V regular season (Seniors)
- **July 15** – Makeup games only (Senior)
- **July 16** – League playoff games (Senior)
- **July 18** – District V Tournament begins (Seniors)
- **July 19** – Last day of District V regular season (Juniors)
- **July 20** – Makeup games only (Junior)
- **July 21** – League playoff games (Junior)
- **July 22** - District V Championship (Seniors)
- **July 23** – District V Tournament begins (Juniors)
- **July 27** - District V Championship (Seniors)
- **July 28** – Senior Department Tournament Begins @ Binghamton
- **August 1** – Junior Department Tournament Begins @ Binghamton

## Section 11

### District Contacts

Acting District Director: Mike Macchione

District Chairman: Dan Clark

Protest Committee: The District 5 Baseball Committee will serve as the protest committee.

5th District Baseball Committee Members:

1. Mike Macchione, District 5 Director, Adrean Post 625
2. Dan Clark, District 5 Baseball Chairman, Clark Mills Post 26
3. Cliff Casab, District 5 administrator, Utica Post 229