

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
AMERICAN LEGION
BASEBALL
2022 BY-LAWS



of the 3RD District
As of 5/17/2022

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Be it known the District By-Laws were adopted via email on 5/6/2022

The following Posts/teams responded: Amsterdam, Kingston/Saugerties, Schenectady, Saratoga

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 has the ability to 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 Voting/Amendments

Section 1.3.1 Voting

Each team Manager or designated representative shall get a vote. If a Program has more than one team, they only get to vote once.

All voting will need a quorum of half of the qualified Posts/teams.

Section 1.3.2 Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of participating Posts at any regularly convened meeting.

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 9.

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".

No manager shall deny a form 76 release to any player that has not previously played on an American Legion Senior team, regardless of player age.

A player loses this right to an automatic release once the player participates in a single game for any American Legion senior team. At the end of the season 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.)

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 in 2021 shall play for the last American Legion team they played for or for the team nearest his parents' domicile.

This rule does not apply to rostered players for any Junior Teams.

Section 4

Senior League Rules

Section 4.1

All teams must compete in the District Baseball League to have a chance to qualify for the District 3 Tournament. The refusal to compete fully in the League will result in the forfeiture of the right to play in the District Tournament.

All teams will play each other 2 times within their respective league. Double headers will be designated as 1 home and 1 away. All league games are priority and must be played.

Managers will schedule their league games. It is not mandatory to schedule doubleheaders.

Mondays will be left open for make-up games. If make-up game(s) can be mutually agreed upon date(s) with the notification to the District Director, if a date(s) can't be decided between the coaches the District Director will schedule a date.

Section 4.2

A point system will be used to establish win, loss record.

- Win = 2 points
- Tie = 1 point
- Loss = 0 point
- Forfeit = lose 1/2 point

Section 4.3

The District 3 Director will be the Chief Administrator for all baseball matters within District 3. The baseball committee will consist of the District 3 Director, The District Chairman and the County chairpersons with teams within the 3rd District baseball league.

All matters needing clarification and/or a ruling will go through to the District Director for approval.

Section 4.4

It is the responsibility of the team whose field that you're playing at to schedule umpires. The cost of the umpires will be shared equally.

A Team that forfeit's and does not call to cancel the umpires will be responsible to reimburse the other team the umpire fee(s).

Section 4.5

All coaches and players will be required to wear full team uniforms for all games that the team(s) are identified as an American Legion team. If a coach or player is reported in violation of this rule they shall (if found guilty) be suspended for one game.

Base coaches will wear some type of approved baseball helmet.

Section 4.6

Any team will not be eligible for league play if they do not have the proper paperwork filed with the Department.

Returning teams need to be present at the first District meeting unless approved by the District chairman to be absent.

New teams must be present at the first District meeting to be considered for eligibility in the upcoming season league play.

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. The District does not have any Junior teams.

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 designated 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. District Tournament

Section 8.1 Tournament Rules

The following will be the criteria for tiebreakers:

- Head to head
- Fewest runs allowed head to head
- Coin flip

All games will be 7 innings

There will be a ten (10) run rule after 5 innings.

Brackets, times / dates, and teams could change at the last minute and teams will need to be ready to play or will be dropped from the tournament. All teams need to be ready to play on short notice.

All teams competing must have at least 10 players available and listed on their lineup card. All players must be listed on the lineup card and also be listed on the teams Form #1 to participate in a District tournament game. If a player's name is omitted from the lineup card, he is not eligible for that game even though he is listed on the Form 1.

Any team that may not be able to participate in the District Tournament should advise the District Director as soon as possible.

The higher seeded team will be the home team for all games until the championship game or games for which home team will be determined by a coin flip

Each team will pay one umpire each at every tournament game.

The District tournament fee will be determined by the District Director dependent on the site of the tournament and an additional fee, determined by the District Director, for the use of championship plaques for both the Junior and Senior Divisions. This fee will be paid 1 week before the tournament begins. Failure to pay these fees will result in your team's disqualification.

A Dozen, certified Department of NY American Legion Baseballs, will be required of each team at their cost at the start of the tournament. Each team will supply umpire with three game balls prior to start of each game and each team will provide umpire an equal number of game balls if needed during game.

All players and coaches will wear a full team uniform including shoulder patch. Only coaches and manager that are listed on the Form #1 will be allowed on the field or in the dugout during the game.

A forfeit in the District Tournament will cause offending team to be removed from tournament play. A committee comprised of the District Director will determine participation by offenders in the District league the following year. Aspects of the forfeit will be fully examined prior to any suspension. Injuries and other unforeseen incidences will be considered and may not be cause for penalty.

Section 8.2 Senior Tournament

The District Tournament will be a 4-team double elimination tournament with teams seeded from best record to worst

The tournament bracket will follow the standard format as provided by National.

Section 9

Important Dates

- February The First District meeting will be held as soon after the Winter Conference as the District Chairman deems appropriate and as soon as a meeting facility is available.
- New teams must be present for consideration to participate in the league.
- Returning teams need to be present unless excused by the District Director.
- May 1 Deadline to finalize and schedules to the District Director
- Schedules should include league and non-league games. All League games must be clearly designated.
- First Game Teams must have all the proper paperwork filed both on the national registration website and with the District Director by their first league game.
- Any team in violation will forfeit all games scheduled until this obligation is satisfied.

Section 10

District Contacts

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