

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
AMERICAN LEGION
BASEBALL
2023 BY-LAWS



of the 8th District
As of June 1, 2023

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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 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 participating Post shall have one vote. The District Director may vote only in event of a tie. Any Post delinquent in any payment due this league shall have no vote.

A majority of the participating Posts shall constitute a quorum of all meetings.

Section 1.3.2 Amendments

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.

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 results in a change in school, regardless of any change in level

Transitional rule for 2023 season only. A player that was given a release to a Junior team in 2022 was given that release under the rules that the release was good for the 2022 season only. Therefore, that player would be considered to have a clean slate of eligibility going into the 2023 season and would therefore qualify for the automatic release for the 2023 season to play either Junior or Senior level.

No manager shall deny a form 76 release to any player that qualifies for an automatic release 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 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 in 2022 shall play for the last American Legion team they played for or for the team nearest his parents' domicile.

Section 4

Senior League Rules

Section 4.1 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.

- 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.
- The executive officer of this league shall be the District Director as identified by the Department Baseball Committee.
- The League shall maintain its own finances. The treasurer shall maintain such bank accounts as directed by the District Director 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 District Director and paid by check.

Section 4.2

- Recruiting shall be in accordance with National Rule, Plan B.
- Participation in other baseball leagues or programs of any type is prohibited except as outlined in the Dual Participation Form.
- Every player involved in dual participation must complete and submit a form listing each team he is involved with. The District 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 will consist of the District Director, District Treasurer, District Chairman.
 - 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.

Section 4.3

- The league program shall be as follows:
 - The league may be divided into two divisions or one large division, depending upon the number of teams. **NOTE:** In 2023, the league will operate as two geographically defined divisions
 - The District Director shall determine the number of games to be played in the coming season including the number of inter-divisional games if any.
- Standings shall be determined as follows:
 - Two points for victory.
 - One point for a tie.
- The District Director will also coordinate umpires. Results of each game (or postponement) as well as photos of both sides of each team's scorebook (or a link to a Gamechanger or similar electronic game recap) shall be reported by the winning manager to the Assistant District Director within one hour of completion of the game.
- 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.
- It is a manager's responsibility to submit in March/April (date determined on year-to-year basis) to the District Director all dates for proms, graduations, banquets, etc., that will prohibit his team from playing on those dates. The District 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 (District Director's approval) and rescheduled at a mutually convenient date.

- Teams must reschedule postponed games within 72 hours and notify the District Director. If not, the District Director will reschedule the game. If one or both teams cannot make that time and date, one or both will forfeit the game.
- Any team that forfeits a game will be fined \$150 by the league payable within seven days. Non-payment results in not being permitted to play the next scheduled game.
- There will be an All-Star game that will be held within two weeks of the conclusion of district playoffs.
 - League will supply baseballs for All-Star game.

Section 4.3

- All games shall be played under the national rules of American Legion Baseball, including but not limited to these exceptions to Official Baseball Rules:
 - Players, coaches or managers will be ejected from the game for use of tobacco, profane language or abuse of equipment.
 - 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 District Director to see if a suspension is warranted.
 - All games shall be seven (7) innings.
 - As per national rulebook, there is a 10-run mercy rule after 5 innings (4.5 if home team leads)
- Each team shall supply three (3) new baseballs (approved by league) for each game. Four dozen baseballs are provided to teams at the beginning of the season and paid for as a part of the league fees.
- Each team will submit official lineup cards to the umpires and opposing team prior to each game. All players in attendance should be included on the lineup card and must be listed on the 18-man roster provided to the District Director before the start of the season. Two packets of lineup cards are provided to teams at the beginning of the season and paid for as a part of the league fees.
- 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.
- Bats follow National Rule
- 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 using the official Department form and

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

- There shall be a 15-minute grace period at the start of each game.
- 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.
- 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.
- Only league certified umpires will be permitted to officiate games.
- Protests filed with the District Director must be accompanied by a check payable to the league in the amount of \$25.00. If the protest is upheld \$25.00 will be refunded.

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. NOTE: For the 2023 season, District 8 will not be operating a junior division.

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 Tournament Rules

- In the event of a tie in the final standings, standing shall be determined by run differential.
- The League will supply baseballs for playoff games.
- All tournament games will use Official Baseball Rules (no re-entry, DH for pitcher only, no courtesy runners.)

Section 8.2 Senior End of Season Playoffs

- Top 2 teams from each division will be eligible for playoffs
- The top seed in each division will play the 2 seed in the other division in a 3 game series to advance to the final round
- The winners of the two preceding series will play a 3 game series to determine the District 8 Champion for the 2022 season
- For the 2022 season, the District 8 Champion will play the District 7 Champion in a single game to determine which team will go on to the Departmental Tournament

Section 9

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 2023, this would include birth years 2008-2009-2010. Districts have the option to restrict the ages below what is stated here. In order 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
- 9.4 Insurance

All Prep Division teams must purchase insurance through K&K through the 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 15U 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 in 2023

9.9 Baseballs must be stamped with American Legion emblem

NOTE: For the 2023 season, District 8 will not be operating a prep division.

Section 10

Important Dates

Meetings shall be as follows:

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

All Form 2s, proof of birth date and any other supporting documentation required under the National Rules (including Dual Participation Forms) shall be delivered to the District Director no later than June 7.

Section 11

District Contacts

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