

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

MASSACHUSETTS STATE PROGRAM

DISTRICT 6 RULES



2024

C. Paul Dumas
Chairman

Steve Maze
Vice Chairman

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2024 DISTRICT 6 OFFICIALS

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**2024 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL
DISTRICT 6
PLAYING RULES**

RULE 1 - TEAM & PLAYER CERTIFICATION

- A. Requests for admission to the Junior Program for the coming Season by an American Legion Post or Outside Sponsored team that did not field a team in the prior Season will be considered a New Team and will only be considered for entry into the Junior Program provided they submit a fully executed American Legion New Team Application Form to the District Chairman no later than the 31st day of January of the year for which the team seeks admission.
- B. Requests for admission to the Senior Program for the coming season by an American Legion Post or Outside Sponsored team that did not field a team in the prior season will be considered a New Team and will only be considered for entry into the Senior Program provided they submit a fully executed American Legion New Team Application Form to the District Chairman no later than the 30th day of November of the year prior to the season the team seeks admission.
- C. New Team Application Forms shall be considered by the District Chairman at a duly called Team Managers' Meeting prior to being forwarded to the Department Athletic Committee with his recommendation.
- D. Each Team shall be responsible to provide the District Chairman with the following documents on or before the date specified for such submission, after which date a

fine of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars shall be imposed and paid before such team may commence District play:

1. Team Registration Forms are due by January 31, 2024.
 2. Printed proposed National Roster due at Roster Meeting on date to be announced.
 3. Google Maps calculations for all non Base School players shown on Roster due at Roster Meeting. (See Department Rule 5.B.3.a)
 4. National Form 2 for each player are due at Roster Meeting.
 5. Original or certified copy of State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health, or other governmental agency issued birth certificate, to be shown to District Chairman at Roster Meeting, but retained by Manager.
 6. Consolidated Player Registration Form are due at Roster Meeting.
 8. Original and one copy of Form(s) 76 & 77 or M76 & M77, if applicable, are due at Roster Meeting.
 9. Original National Coaches Code of Ethics Form for Manager and all Coaches are due by at Roster Meeting.
- E. All Teams shall maintain in their possession and have available at all games the following documents: hereinafter referred to as the "Team Credentials", (1) Printed copy of National Roster; (2) Google Maps calculations for all non Base School players; (3) Team copy of Form 2 for each player on National Roster; (4) Original form of evidence of date of birth for each player on Form 1 as required by Department Rule 4.IV.D.3; (5) Fully executed copies of all Forms 76 & 77 or M76 & M77 for each player listed on Form 1 if necessary.

RULE 2 - DISTRICT DIVISIONS

- A. The Senior Division shall consist of 15 teams and the Junior Division shall consist of the 10 teams as shown on the Contact page of these Rules.
- B. The web master shall be responsible for maintaining the official Standings and Schedule for both Divisions on the District web site.
- C. The winning team in each Division will email or text the score to the web master as soon as possible after each game so that the District web site may be accurately maintained.

RULE 3 - REGULAR SEASON PLAY

- A. Regular season play in the Senior Division shall consist of each team playing each other team in the Division once for a total of 14 games plus 2 additional games against Division opponents to be determined randomly by the District webmaster.
1. The final date for regular season play shall be Monday, July 15, 2024, after which date the Division standings shall become final.
 2. The National Courtesy Runner Rule (Rule 1.G) and Re-entry Rule (1.T) are not approved for use in the Senior Division during the regular season nor the District Playoffs.
- B. Regular season play in the Junior Division shall consist of each team playing each other team in the Division twice for a total of 18 games.
1. The final date for regular season play in the Junior Program shall be Wednesday, July 24, 2024, after which date the Division standings shall become final.
 2. **The following Department Re-Entry Rule (Rule 9.A) may be used in the Junior Program during the regular season and District Playoffs:**
 - a. Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and reentered 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.
- C. During the Regular season, a regulation game in both Divisions shall consist of 7 innings unless extended because of a tie score, or shortened (1) because the home team needs none of its half of the 7th inning or only a fraction of it, or (2) because the umpire calls the game. A Regulation Game shall become official when the losing team has completed its time at bat in the fifth (5th) inning; or if tied, after both teams have completed their time at bat in the fifth (5th) inning. An official game which terminates in a tie, shall be declared a tie game and shall not be replayed.
1. During District Playoff Games in both Divisions, a game called by the umpire before it becomes a Regulation Game shall be a Suspended Game and completed as directed by the District Chairman, otherwise upon becoming a Regulation Game, the result shall be final.
 2. A Regulation Game called by the umpire, ends at the moment the umpire terminates play, except if the game is called during an uncompleted inning, in which case the game ends at the end of the previously completed inning if the visiting team tied or took the lead in the incomplete inning and the home team did not tie or retake the lead in their part of the incomplete inning.

- D. National Rule 1.V (10 Run Rule) will be in effect in both Divisions during the Regular Season and Playoffs. Games will become final at any point after the losing team has completed its time at bat in the fifth (5th) inning and thereafter, if losing by ten (10) or more runs. Clarification, if the visiting team takes a ten (10) run lead in its half of an inning, the home team shall be allowed to complete its time at bat in such inning.
- E. National Rule 1.S (Pitching Rule) shall be in effect in both Divisions during the Regular Season and District Playoffs. Each team will be responsible to maintain pitch count and appearance records for all of its players throughout the season and shall have its records updated through the team's last game available at each game for inspection by the opposing team or the District Chairman. Teams violating any part of this Rule will be subject to sanction by the District Chairman.
 - 1. Each team shall provide a written list of all of their players who are ineligible to pitch in that day's game because of exceeding the limits imposed by the Pitching Rule to the opposing team at the pre game ground rule meeting with the umpires.
 - 2. Teams shall confer after each ½ inning throughout each game to agree upon each pitcher's pitch count for such ½ inning.
- F. All teams shall complete their schedules as expeditiously as possible.

RULE 4 - STANDINGS

- A. The standings in both Divisions shall be based upon points (2 per win and 1 per tie).
 - 1. Ties in the regular season standing in both Divisions shall be determined as follows:
 - If between 2 teams:
 - a. The winner of the regular season series between the tied teams shall determine the tie, if still tied; then
 - b. The team with the most number of wins shall determine the tie, if still tied;
 - c. The team with the most number of runs scored in games between the tied teams shall determine the tie, if still tied; then
 - d. The team with the least number of runs allowed in games between the tied teams shall determine the tie, if still tied; then
 - e. A coin toss shall be conducted by the District Chairman who shall assign heads & tails for the teams involved.
 - If between 3 or more teams:

- a. The team with the most number of wins shall determine the tie, if still tied;
- b. The team with the most number of runs scored in games between all of the tied teams shall determine the tie, if still tied; then
- c. The team with the least total number of runs allowed in games between all of the tied teams shall determine the tie, if still tied; then
- d. A coin toss shall be conducted by the District Chairman who shall assign heads & tails for the teams involved and the order of the coin toss.

RULE 5 - STARTING TIMES, FORFEITS

- A. All District games shall commence promptly at their scheduled starting times. Any team not ready to begin play with nine (9) certified players fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled starting time shall forfeit the game and be responsible for all expenses actually incurred for such game including, but not limited to, umpire and field usage fees, which fees are to be paid forthwith.
 1. Teams forfeiting games shall also pay a fine of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars forthwith to the District Chairman who shall place such fines in a District Fund.
 - a. The District Fund shall be maintained by the District Chairman and used to defray District expenses.
 2. Teams that fail to pay such fees and/or fines within a reasonable time shall be subject to immediate suspension by the District Chairman and shall be ineligible to compete in District 6 during any successive season until all such fees and/or fines have been paid in full.
 3. Teams that forfeit¹ two (2) games during any season shall immediately be suspended from the Program, shall forfeit all remaining games and be reported to the Department Baseball Committee Chairman. In addition to the sanctions imposed by Department Rule 10.E, no team may be readmitted to the Program until all fines and game expenses associated with their forfeited games have been paid in full, their New Team Application Form has been filed with the District Chairman by November 30th of the year immediately prior to season for which the team seeks readmission, and the Application is favorably acted upon.
 4. The Umpire in Chief shall report all forfeited games to the District Chairman forthwith, together with the circumstances of the forfeit.

¹ Games which begin with nine (9) players on each team but which end in forfeit resulting from injury or ejection shall not be counted toward the two (2) games needed for removal from the program. See Department Rule 10.E.

RULE 6 - GAME EXPENSES

- A. The home team shall be responsible to provide sufficient authorized baseballs, (Diamond D1-AL-MA are preferred, or D1-AL if necessary) which are in satisfactory condition to the home plate umpire in order to complete each game.
- B. Two (2) umpires shall be assigned to each game who shall be paid by the home team prior to the start of each game. The umpire's fee established for all 7 inning regular season and District Playoff games in 2024 shall be \$85.00 per umpire in the Senior Division and \$75.00 in the Junior Division. The Umpire in Chief's Fee in 2024 shall be \$50.00 per team, the webmaster's fee shall be \$45.00 per team.
- C. Any Team violating the provisions of this Rule and/or any game not completed because of a violation of this Rule shall be reported to the District Chairman by the Umpire in Chief for appropriate action.

RULE 7 - POSTPONED GAMES

- A. Postponed games, and games which have not been played to official length shall be rescheduled by the home team within 48 hours to be played at the next available open date between the teams involved. The home team will notify the District Chairman, the webmaster and Umpire in Chief of the postponement and of the rescheduled date so that the official schedule may be updated and umpires may be assigned for the rescheduled game. In the event the teams involved can not agree on a new date for the rescheduled game, the District Chairman shall reschedule the game and notify the webmaster and Umpire in Chief of his actions. Teams refusing to play games on the rescheduled date will be subject to forfeit. The District Chairman shall have authority to reschedule games, set game times and locations for games as necessary in order to insure that all teams complete their scheduled games.

RULE 8 - CONFLICT WITH HIGH SCHOOL GAMES

- A. Teams that have less than fifteen (15) certified players available to play a regularly scheduled District game because their team's players are competing for their high school baseball team may postpone such regularly scheduled game by notifying the opposing Team Manager, the webmaster, the District Chairman and Umpire in Chief. Teams that exercise their option to postpone games as herein provided must begin their regularly scheduled games on the day following the termination of the high school's season which caused the team to have less than fifteen players available to play. All games postponed pursuant to this Rule must be rescheduled, (not necessarily played) within 48 hours of the team having fifteen (15) players available to play.

RULE 9 - INFIELD PRACTICE, LINEUPS & SUNDIAL

- A. Provided the visiting team is prepared to take the field on time, it shall be allowed to use the field for infield practice 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of each game.
- B. No inning is to commence after 8 PM at fields that do not have lights. No inning shall commence after 10:00 PM at night games at Needham High School. Official time shall be determined by the home plate umpire's watch unless otherwise agreed upon prior to each game.
- C. Each team shall be responsible to obtain a sufficient supply of American Legion Baseball Official Lineup Cards for the current season. The Lineup Cards shall be used to prepare each team's batting order. Prior to the start of each game, each team's manager shall deliver the original and one copy of the Lineup Card to the home plate umpire who shall make certain that the original and respective copies are identical and then tender a copy of each batting order to the opposing manager. The copy retained by the home plate umpire shall be the official batting order and only the players listed on that Lineup Card may appear in that game. The tender of the batting order by the umpire to the team manager shall establish the batting order for that game. Thereafter, no substitutions shall be made by either manager except as provided by the Official Baseball Rules.
 - 1. In addition to the Line Up Cards, the managers shall exchange a written list of all of their players who are ineligible to pitch in that game because of exceeding the limits of the National Pitch Count Rule.

RULE 10 - PROTESTS & EJECTIONS

- A. All protests involving interpretations of the Official Rules of Baseball must be made to the home plate umpire before the next pitch is made or a runner is retired and must be followed up by a typewritten outline of the facts which gave rise to the protest, citing the specific Rule(s) of Baseball in question. Such protests may only be made by the Team Manager and the written protest must be delivered to the District Chairman by facsimile transmission, certified mail, hand delivery or e-mail by midnight of the day of the protested game.
 - 1. Upon receipt of a written protest which complies with the provisions of this Rule, the District Chairman shall instruct the Umpire in Chief to obtain written game reports from the umpires who worked the game.
 - 2. The District Chairman shall promptly rule on the protest as soon as practicable.
 - 3. Games which are to be replayed or completed as a result of a protest shall be rescheduled as provided by Rule 7.

- B. All ejections of players, managers or coaches shall be forthwith reported to the District Chairman by the Umpire in Chief who may take whatever further disciplinary action he deems appropriate.

RULE 11 - DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

A. Senior Program Playoffs

1. The final date for regular season games shall be Monday, July 15, 2024, on which date the standings shall become final.
2. The teams finishing one (1) through four (4) after applying the tie breaker provisions of Rule 4, shall advance to the District Double Elimination Tournament.
3. The teams finishing five (5) through twelve (12) after applying the tie breaker provisions of Rule 4, shall play a single elimination play-in game with team 5 playing team 12, team 6 playing team 11, team 7 playing team 10 and team 8 playing team 9. The higher seeded team will be the home team and the game will be played at the higher seeded team's home field. Umpire fees and baseballs will be split between the teams. The games will be played on Tuesday, July 16 and must be concluded on Wednesday, July 17, 2024. In the event any game is not played, is not played to official length or ends in a tie, then the higher seeded team will advance to the District Double Elimination Tournament.
4. The Teams finishing 1 through 4 and the four teams advancing from the play-in game will be arranged in descending order based upon the final regular season standings and not including the results of the play-in game.
5. The eight teams will then participate in a double elimination District Playoff Tournament so that teams will be eliminated from the Tournament upon a second (2nd) loss. The Tournament schedule will commence on Friday, July 19, 2024, weather permitting, and must be completed by the conclusion of play on Thursday, July 25, 2024, no games may be played after July 25, 2024. The winning team and runner-up team will advance to the Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament which will be held at Fitton Field on the Campus of The Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, as teams 6A and 6B respectively.
4. All players on the winning and runner-up teams who have, or will attain their 18th birthday by the end of the World Series, (August 20, 2024) will be required to successfully complete a background check and abuse training given by Protect Youth Sports in order to participate in any National Tournament. The teams affected by this Rule are urged to have their player apply for a background check and complete abuse training as soon as possible after the final game of the District Playoff Tournament. (Note: PYS will not process background checks for anyone until they reach their 18th birthday.

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2024

Game 1 Team #1 vs. Team #8
Game 2 Team #2 vs. Team #7
Game 3 Team #3 vs. Team #6
Game 4 Team #4 vs. Team #5

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2024

Game 5 Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 4
Game 6 Loser Game 2 vs. Loser Game 3

Game 7 Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 4
Game 8 Winner Game 2 vs. Winner Game 3

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 2024

Game 9 Winner Game 6 vs. Loser Game 7
Game 10 Winner Game 5 vs. Loser Game 8
Game 11 Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8

MONDAY, JULY 22, 2024

Game 12 Winner Game 9 vs. Winner Game 10
Game 13 Loser Game 11 vs. Winner Game 12

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024

Game 14 Winner Game 11 vs. Winner Game 13
Game 15 If Necessary

5. The times and location of all games will be announced by the District Chairman as soon as practicable prior to the commencement of the Tournament and will be based upon field availability and weather conditions.
6. The home team for all District Playoff games shall be the higher seeded team with the best record in the Tournament. Approved Baseballs and umpire's fee (two umpires will be assigned to each game) shall be split equally by the teams.
7. All team personnel on the field and in the dugout area must be in complete uniform identical to the team players, jackets and pullovers may be worn over the uniform provided the American Legion patch is attached to the jacket or pullover.
8. Tournament Tie Breaker Rule². If at the conclusion of play on Thursday, July 25, 2024, no games have been played in the Tournament, then the 2 highest seeded teams will be the winner and runner-up. If Tournament games have been played and there are more than 2 teams that have not been eliminated from the Tournament, then the winner and runner-up will be determined as follows:
 - i. The 2 undefeated teams with the most number of wins in the Tournament will be the winner/runner-up;

² Rule 11.A.2 shall be used to determine highest seeded team.

- ii. If there is a tie among the undefeated teams, then the 2 highest seeded teams in the Tournament will be the winner/runner-up;
 - iii. If there is 1 undefeated team and more than one team with 1 loss, then the undefeated team will be the winner and the runner-up will be the team with one loss that has the most number of wins in the Tournament;
 - a. If there is a tie among the teams with one loss for runner-up, then the highest seeded team shall be the runner-up;
 - iv. If there are no undefeated teams, then the 2 teams with the most number of wins will be the winner/runner-up;
 - v. If still tied, then the two highest seeded remaining teams will be the winner/runner-up.
9. Tournament games which have been stopped by the umpire before they become Regulation Games shall be Suspended Games and will be completed from the point of suspension at the direction of the District Chairman. The result of Regulation Games shall be final. The pitch count rule will be in effect for Games suspended on one day and completed the following day. Pitchers must observe the required days of rest.
10. All protests involving interpretations of the Official Baseball Rules in District Playoff Tournament games must be made to the umpires before the next pitch is made, a runner is retired, or immediately after the final play of the game where the protest involves the final play of the game. The Protest will be decided by the District Chairman, or if the Chairman is not in attendance, by his designee in attendance at the game after consultation with the District Chairman by cell phone, who's decision will be final.

B. Junior Program Playoffs

- 1. The final date for regular season play shall be Wednesday, July 24, 2024.
- 2. The teams finishing one (1) through eight (8), after applying the tie breaker provisions of Rule 4, shall be arranged in descending order 1 through 8.
- 3. The eight teams will participate in a double elimination District Playoff Tournament so that teams will be eliminated from the Tournament upon a second (2nd) loss. The Tournament schedule follows and will commence on Friday, July 26, 2024, weather permitting, and must be completed by the conclusion of play on Thursday, August 1, 2024. The winner will advance to the Final Eight Team Department Junior Championship Tournament which will be held at Middleboro High School.

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024

Game 1 Team #1 vs. Team #8
Game 2 Team #2 vs. Team #7
Game 3 Team #3 vs. Team #6
Game 4 Team #4 vs. Team #5

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024

Game 5 Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 4
Game 6 Loser Game 2 vs. Loser Game 3

Game 7 Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 4
Game 8 Winner Game 2 vs. Winner Game 3

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024

Game 9 Winner Game 6 vs. Loser Game 7
Game 10 Winner Game 5 vs. Loser Game 8
Game 11 Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2024

Game 12 Winner Game 9 vs. Winner Game 10
Game 13 Loser Game 11 vs. Winner Game 12

TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024

Game 14 Winner Game 11 vs. Winner Game 13
Game 15 If Necessary

4. The times and location of all games will be announced by the District Chairman as soon as practicable prior to the commencement of the Tournament and will be based upon field availability and weather conditions.
5. The Tournament shall be under the sole jurisdiction of the District Chairman and his designees.
6. The home team for each Tournament game shall be the higher seeded team with the best record in the Tournament. Approved Baseballs and the umpire's fee (two umpires will be assigned to each game) shall be split equally by the two teams.
7. All team personnel on the field and in the dugout area must be in complete uniform identical to the team players, jackets and pullovers may be worn over the uniform provided the American Legion patch is attached to the jacket or pullover.
8. Tournament Tie Breaker Rule³. If at the conclusion of play on Thursday, August 1, 2024, no games have been played in the Tournament, then the highest seeded team in the Tournament shall be the winner. If Tournament games have been played, then the winner will be determined as follows:

³ Rule 11.B.2 shall be used to determine highest seeded team.

- i. The undefeated team shall be the winner;
 - ii. If there is more than one undefeated team, then the team with the most number of wins in the Tournament shall be the winner;
 - iii. If there is a tie among undefeated teams, then the highest seeded undefeated team in the Tournament shall be the winner;
 - iv. If there are no undefeated teams, then the team with the most number of wins in the Tournament shall be the winner;
 - v. If still tied, then the highest seeded team with the most number of wins in the Tournament shall be the winner.
9. Tournament games which have been stopped by the umpire before they become Regulation Games shall be Suspended Games and will be completed from the point of suspension at the direction of the District Chairman. The result of Regulation Games shall be final. The pitch count rule will be in effect for Games suspended on one day and completed the following day. Pitchers must observe the required days of rest.
10. All protests involving interpretations of the Official Baseball Rules in District Playoff Tournament games must be made to the umpires before the next pitch is made, a runner is retired, or immediately after the final play of the game where the protest involves the final play of the game. The Protest will be decided by the District Chairman, or if the Chairman is not in attendance, by his designee in attendance at the game after consultation with the District Chairman by cell phone, who's decision will be final.

RULE 12 - FIELD CONDITIONS

- A. All Teams shall take all necessary precautions to insure that their home fields are in satisfactory condition and that the bases are securely anchored and not movable.

END OF RULES