

# AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

1925 - 2024

The 99<sup>th</sup> Year

## Massachusetts State Program - 2024



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.

[www.masslegion.org](http://www.masslegion.org)

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Commander

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Department Baseball Committee Chairman

# FOREWORD

The National Americanism Commission of The American Legion sponsors numerous programs for America's Youth. Americanism is defined as an unfailing love of Country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, individual allegiance to the Flag, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

Our forefathers laid the foundation for a civilization that is the envy of the world. It has brought us greater spiritual and material wealth than any people has ever known. This is our heritage. The many activities of the National Americanism Commission are designed to acknowledge and preserve that heritage, recognizing all of the inalienable rights of man. Baseball is one of the Programs of the National Americanism Commission which is designed to benefit our nation's youth.

American Legion Baseball (ALB) began in 1925 and held its first national tournament the following year. Today, more than 3,000 teams and some 54,000 players participate in all states and Puerto Rico. ALB consists of two divisions – seniors (19 years of age and younger) and juniors (17 years of age and younger).

ALB strives to teach practical lessons of good sportsmanship and citizenship. Loyalty, respect for rules and decisions rendered, fair play, courage and physical fitness are emphasized in this activity.

The Legion's national organization conducts tournaments in its senior division. The winners of eight regional tournaments advance to a national championship tournament. The team crowned national champion is honored by Major League Baseball with a trip to the MLB World Series.

Many current and former MLB players developed their skills on American Legion diamonds. They included Hall of Farmers like Bob Feller, Ted Williams, Don Drysdale, Joe Morgan, Yogi Berra and Reggie Jackson. More recent stars like Chipper Jones, Albert Pujols and Darin Erstad played American Legion Baseball.

Yet baseball isn't the only area where former players have excelled. Legion Baseball graduates have gone on to prominence in other career fields. Former Vice President Dick Cheney played for Post 2 in Casper, Wyo. Famed journalist and author Tom Brokaw played Legion ball in South Dakota, and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack was on a team in Pennsylvania.

In short, Legion Baseball graduates are proud contributors throughout our society and often are the most successful people in their respective career fields.

American Legion Baseball depends upon its Posts, individual Legionnaires and other Legion family organizations to promote the activity. Enthusiastic leadership, coaches and players are available in almost every community where an American Legion Post is located.

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# 2024 NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

The Americanism Commission has approved the following rule changes for the 2024 American Legion Baseball season:

1. **Rule 1.V. Uniform** - add after last sentence in Clarification, "Other baseball organization's emblem or insignia are prohibited to appear on the uniform."
2. **Rule 2.C.4. Clarification** - replace last sentence to read "Any player who signs a professional contract will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the season and may be replaced on National Form #1 by an eligible player."
3. **Rule 6.D. Dual Participation** - replace Points of Emphasis with the following: "The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Dual participation shall no way interfere with a player's responsibility to his American Legion Baseball team. Once department post-season tournament play has begun, the department baseball chairman cannot grant permission to dual participate. Any player missing any game of an American Legion post-season tournament shall be ineligible from further post-season tournament play.  
CLARIFICATION - Players attending military assignment, MLB sanctioned invitation only event, or college of enrollment orientation workouts may be granted an exception on a case-by-case basis, with proper documentation. Prior written approval from the American Legion Baseball Committee Chairman is required."
4. **Rule 6.E. 1. Dual Roster** - replace rule with the following: "For those American Legion Baseball programs that have affiliated senior and junior teams, junior eligible players may participate on both teams. However, senior eligible players may not participate on a junior team. Those eligible junior players may appear in an affiliated senior team game provided the total number of players in such senior game does not exceed 18 players."
5. **Rule 6.E.5 Team and Player Certification** - add paragraph "5. Any player who signs a professional contract will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the season and may be replaced on National Form #1 by an eligible player."
6. **Rule 9.A. National Tournament Registration** -establishes the 2024 deadline date for departments to certify their department winner. Rule to read "The department championship team must be certified to the Americanism Commission by the authorized department baseball official no later than 11:59 p.m. August 1, 2024, if department is going to utilize National's transportation arrangements to regional site."
7. **Rule 9.D. National Tournament Player Eligibility Protest**- add to end of the rule, CLARIFICATION - Players who miss any part of a department post-season tournament due to non-baseball related matters may be granted an exception on a case-by-case basis, with proper documentation. Prior written approval from the American Legion Baseball Committee Chairman is required."
8. **Definitions** - add new definition "**Affiliated Team:** Affiliated senior and junior teams must share same base school and high school enrollment combination."
9. **National Resolution** - Players who have, or will have attained their 18th birthday by the end of the World Series must successfully complete a background check and abuse training in order to participate in any National Tournament.

The following MLB rules have **NOT** been adopted by The American Legion Baseball Committee for use during the 2024 season and shall not be used in the Department of Massachusetts:

1. Larger Bases
2. Ohtani Rule (DH for pitcher only is still in effect)
3. One Way Communication
  - a. Not an official MLB Rule
  - b. **ALB Rule:** The use of one-way electronic equipment in the dugout is prohibited. A tablet computer used for score keeping purposes only is permissible.
4. Extra Inning Rule (Runner at 2B)
5. Pitch Timer
  - a. MLB Rule 5.07.c (Pitcher Delays) will be observed but not timed.
  - b. When the bases are unoccupied, the pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter within 12 seconds after he receives the ball. Each time the pitcher delays the game by violating this rule, the umpire shall call "Ball."
6. Mound Visits Per Game
  - a. MLB recognizes 5 visits per 9 innings.
  - b. ALB will continue to follow the 2 visits per inning requires a change of pitcher rule.

**DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**2024 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULES**  
**2024 RULE CHANGES ARE UNDERLINED**

**RULE 1 - PLAYING RULES**

- A. All Department games shall be played in accordance with rules adopted by the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion and by the Official Baseball Rules as authorized by the Commissioner of Major League Baseball for 2024, with the exception of the Rules contained herein.
1. Unless modified by the ground rules provided to the umpire prior to the start of each game, if a fielder, after catching a fly ball, falls into a bench or stand, or falls across ropes or an imaginary line, or falls into a crowd when spectators are on the field, the ball shall be declared dead and each runner, other than the batter, may without liability to be put out, advance one base. However, if a fielder after making such a catch does not fall down, the ball shall remain in play and runners may advance at their own peril.
  2. The use of any form of tobacco by a player, coach, manager or umpire while on the playing field is prohibited and shall result in that person's immediate ejection from the game.
  3. All players are required to wear double flapped, ear protective batting helmets while on deck, batting and/or running the bases.
    - a. All bat boys (girls) must at all times wear double flapped, ear protective batting helmets while on the playing field or in the dugout.
    - b. All batting helmets must have the NOCSAE seal of approval stamped on the helmet, and such seal must be visible on the outside of the helmet.
  4. In addition to normal catcher's equipment, catchers are required to wear a safety helmet, throat protector and protective cup. Any catcher's mask that does not have an extended metal throat protector at least 2 inches in length is required to have an attachable throat protector. Umpires and Department officials shall halt any game until this rule is complied with.
    - a. All players and coaches are required to wear a catcher's mask while warming up pitchers if they are in the catcher's customary position, regardless of whether they are on the field or in the bullpen. Players or



coaches refusing to wear a mask while warming up a pitcher after being so warned, shall be ejected from the game.

5. **Pitching Rule.** (National Rule 1.S) No player may pitch more than a total of 105 pitches per day. A pitcher will be allowed to finish a batter if he reaches or exceeds the maximum limit during an at-bat, but must exit the position after that hitter. No player may enter the game as a pitcher without having fulfilled the required rest days as mandated in the chart below. No player may make more than two appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period. PENALTY – The pitcher is removed from the pitcher’s position and head coach shall be ejected from the game and serve an additional game suspension.

<b>Daily maximum</b> (pitches in game)		<b>Required rest</b>				
		0 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days
		(number of pitches)				
ALB Senior & Junior Programs	105	0-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+

- a. Any player may be removed from the pitching position and remain in the game at another position. However, a pitcher will be automatically removed from the position when a coach makes a second trip to the mound in the same inning, and that player cannot return as a pitcher in that game. PENALTY – Forfeiture of the game if a protest is filed with the umpire-in-chief before the last out of the game.
  - b. If a player returns as a pitcher in the same game, he will be charged with another appearance.
  - c. A day is defined as 8 a.m. to 8 a.m.
  - d. If a pitcher throws 45 or fewer pitches in game one of multiple games on the same day, he may return to pitch in game two, up to 105 pitches total for the day. If a pitcher were to throw more than 45 pitches in game one, he would be ineligible to pitch in game two.
6. All teams must have an up to date and comprehensive First-Aid Kit at all games see suggested contents for First Aid Kit on National Web site. No game may commence unless at least one team has such a First Aid Kit in their dugout area. Teams that are unable to produce such a First Aid Kit at games are subject to a Fifty (\$50.00) fine.

7. All players on each team must wear full identical uniforms in order to participate in any regular or post season game. Players who are not in full identical uniform shall not be allowed to participate in such games.
  - a. The American Legion Baseball Insignia must be worn on the left sleeve or left chest of the uniform shirt. The uniform shirt shall also be numbered and display lettering that identifies the Post, Department, Town, City, Community or Sponsor of the team represented which is acceptable to the Department Chairman. However, no emblem or insignia representing any other baseball organization shall be permitted to appear on an ALB uniform.
  - b. Any player, coach or manager who does not have an American Legion Baseball insignia on either the left sleeve or left chest of his uniform shirt, wind shirt or jacket will be removed from the game.
  - c. District Chairmen must instruct their District's Head Umpire to instruct all District umpires that no player is to be allowed on the field during games unless they are in compliance with this Rule.
8. Only managers and coaches listed on their team's National (Electronic) Registration Form #1 or Coaches Drop/Add Form #5 may coach from the coaching box and/or visit the pitcher's mound during any regular or post season game, provided, however, that they are in full uniform which is identical to their team's players' uniform.
  - a. Coaches may wear courtesy jackets over their uniform provided the American Legion Baseball Insignia is on the jacket's left sleeve or left chest and provided further that no emblem or insignia representing any other baseball organization shall be permitted.
  - b. Managers and coaches who are not in full uniform must remain on the bench during games and may not go onto the field or coaches' box for any reason other than an emergency. District Chairmen must instruct their District's Head Umpire to instruct all District umpires that no manager or coach is to be allowed on the field unless they are in compliance with this Rule. Managers and/or coaches who violate this rule are subject to ejection from the game.
  - c. Protective Helmets for Coaches: All coaches are mandated to wear a protective helmet while in the coaching box during play. The coach may

choose the type of protective helmet - single-ear flap, double-ear flap, or no earflap helmet, but they must have a helmet. Any coach who fails to wear a protective helmet during play, shall remain in the dugout until they comply with this rule. A player with a double ear flap protective helmet may act as a coach. This is a safety rule. A second violation may result in an ejection by umpire.

- d. Coaches Box: As part of Official Baseball Rules, base coaches may not be permitted to stand out-side the "front" of the coach's box prior to the ball being in play. This is a safety issue. A coach may leave the coach's box once the ball has been put into play. The coach may stand outside the "back" of the coach's box at any time. Failure to abide by this rule may result in an ejection.
  - e. All managers, coaches and Volunteer Staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball Teams must successfully pass the background check screening process and the Child Abuse Training Program available through Protect Youth Sports prior to any meetings, events, practices or games for their team. Teams will not be approved if any member of its staff has failed to successfully complete the process or having completed same, has failed to successfully pass the background check and/or the Abuse Training. Certificates of Completion of Child Abuse Training will only be accepted from Protect Youth Sports and not from any other program.
  - f. Team Staff members who allow an individual to associate themselves with a Team who has not successfully passed the background check and/or Abuse Training will be subject to immediate suspension from the Program.
  - g. All players participating in the Department Senior Championship Tournament who have attained, or will attain their 18th birthday by the end of the World Series (August 21, 2024) must successfully pass the background check screening process and the Child Abuse Training Program available through Protect Youth Sports in order to participate the Regional Tournament.
9. Only bats approved for use in American Legion play may be used in games. Please refer to National Rule 1B. All non-wood bats must be BBCOR certified. If any bat is used in a game and fails to meet this requirement, the bat shall be removed from the game, the batter shall be declared out and the head coach or team manager shall be ejected from the game.

- a. For the purposes of Rule 1.B, the term “used in a game” shall mean: the batter was in the batter’s box during an official pitch whether or not the batter struck at the pitch.
10. **Diamond D1-AL and Diamond D1-AL-MA** are the only baseballs approved for use in the Department of Massachusetts in 2024.
11. **10 Run Rule.** (National Rule 1.U) May be used in all regular season and playoff games in the Department at both the Senior and Junior Divisions.
12. **Pace of Play Rules.** Pace of Play Rules appearing in the MLB Rules are not adopted for use in American Legion Baseball.

## **RULE 2 - DEPARTMENT BASEBALL COMMITTEE**

- A. The Department Baseball Committee is a Standing Committee of The American Legion Department of Massachusetts, Inc., is authorized by Article III, Section 1 of the Department By-Laws for the purpose of administering the Department of Massachusetts Baseball Program. Annual appointments to the Department Baseball Committee shall be made by the Department Commander. Only paid up members of The American Legion may serve as members of the Department Baseball Committee.
  1. The Chairman of the Department Baseball Committee, (hereinafter referred to as the “Chairman”) is authorized by Article III, Section 3(b) of the Department By-Laws to form as many subcommittees as the Chairman deems appropriate and to appoint as many members to such Subcommittee(s) as the Chairman deems appropriate to administer the Department Baseball Program.
  2. Meetings of the Department Baseball Committee and the Subcommittee(s) shall be governed by Robert’s Rules Of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Edition, for Boards and Committees. The presence of five (5) voting members of the Baseball Committee and/or a majority of the members of the Subcommittee(s) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.
  3. Amendments to these Rules may be proposed in writing by any member of the Baseball Committee or the Subcommittee(s) by forwarding a proposed change to the Chairman at any time but in no event later than the date

notice of the meeting at which the proposed Rule change will be considered is given to the Department Baseball/Subcommittee(s). Proposed amendments to these Rules shall be approved upon a majority vote of the members present at a duly called meeting, which determination shall be subject to ratification by the Department Baseball Committee, which in turn shall be subject to ratification by the Department Executive Committee.

4. All other matters which come before the Department Baseball/Subcommittee(s) shall be approved upon a majority vote of the members present at a duly called meeting, subject to ratification by the Department Baseball Committee. The Chairman, in his sole discretion, shall have the right to present matters to the Department Baseball/Subcommittee(s) for consideration via Zoom or some other similar electronic medium including, but not limited to email, with the results of electronic votes being final subject to ratification by the Department Baseball Committee.

B. All matters concerning the Department of Massachusetts Baseball Program that have not been specifically reserved to the initial or final jurisdiction of the Chairman, shall be within the jurisdiction of the Department Baseball Committee.

C. Team managers, coaches or members of the Department Baseball Committee shall not serve as an umpire in the Department of Massachusetts Baseball Program.

D. Requests for interpretations of National or Department Baseball Rules may only be requested by Team Managers, Members of the Baseball or Subcommittee(s) provided they are made in writing and delivered to the Chairman.

1. Any person, other than the Chairman or his designee, who contacts the National Program Administrator or National Americanism Commission directly for any matter related to the American Legion Baseball Program shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Department Baseball Committee, which discipline shall include a \$200.00 fine.

### **RULE 3 - DISTRICTS**

A. The following Districts are established for the 2024 season:

District 3                      Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden Counties

District 4	Worcester
District 6	Norfolk & Portions of Bristol Counties
District 8	Essex County
District 10	Barnstable, Plymouth, Dukes, Nantucket & Portions of Bristol Counties

- B. The Department Baseball/Subcommittee may transfer teams from one District to another.

## **RULE 4 - TEAM REGISTRATION**

### **I. NEW TEAM APPLICATIONS**

- A. Senior Division: Applications for entry into the Senior Division for the coming season by teams which either did not have an active Senior Division Team in the prior season or were suspended from the Program during the prior season, will be considered a New Team and must file a fully executed American Legion Baseball New Team Registration Form with the local District Chairman by January 31st of the year for which they seek entry.

Teams submitting an application for entry to the Senior Division must demonstrate: (1) Satisfactory written evidence for permission to use the team's intended playing field during the season for which they seek entry by a duly authorized signatory of the entity responsible for use of the field, (the playing condition of the field must be satisfactory to the local District Chairman); (2) Satisfactory evidence of the team's financial ability to fund the team; and (3) Satisfactory evidence of the team's ability to recruit sufficient qualified players to fill their roster without adversely affecting existing teams. **CLARIFICATION**, an existing team will be adversely affected by the admission of a new team if an average of 20% or more of the players listed on an existing team's roster over the prior three (3) seasons reside in the new team's recruiting area. The local District Chairman, after consulting with the District's Team Managers, shall submit the Form and supporting documents to the Chairman with their recommendation by March 1st, of the season for which the team seeks entry for final approval by the Baseball Committee. New Team Applications and/or Base School changes will not be considered at a Department Baseball Committee meeting unless they appear on the agenda for such meeting. The Department Baseball Committee shall retain final jurisdiction on all New Team Applications subject to appeal by the Department Appeals Board.

1. Teams that were suspended during the previous five (5) seasons for forfeiting two (2) games in a season may not be reinstated to the Senior Division until the team has complied with Rule 10.E.

B. Junior Division: Applications for entry into the Junior Division for the coming season by teams that did not have an active Junior Division team in the previous season shall file a fully executed American Legion Baseball New Team Registration Form with the local District Chairman by January 31st of the year for which they seek entry. Junior teams must demonstrate: (1) Satisfactory written evidence for permission to use the team's intended playing field during the season for which they seek entry by a duly authorized signatory of the entity responsible for use of the field, (the playing condition of the field must be satisfactory to the local District Chairman); (2) Satisfactory evidence of the team's financial ability to fund the team; and (3) Satisfactory evidence of the team's ability to recruit sufficient qualified players to fill their roster without adversely affecting existing teams. **CLARIFICATION**, an existing team will be adversely affected by the admission of a new team if an average of 20% or more of the players listed on an existing team's roster over the prior three (3) seasons reside in the new team's recruiting area. The local District Chairman, after consulting with the District's Team Managers, shall submit the Form and supporting documents to the Chairman with their recommendation by March 1st, of the season for which the team seeks entry for final approval by the Baseball Committee. New Team Applications and/or Base School changes will not be considered at a Department Baseball Committee meeting unless they appear on the agenda for such meeting. The Department Baseball Committee shall retain final jurisdiction on all New Team Applications subject to appeal by the Department Appeals Board.

1. Local District Chairmen may establish earlier cut off dates for filing and considering New Team Applications provided they do so in their District Rules.

2. If all American Legion Posts within a team's Plan A Zone refuse to sponsor a team; or if the closest American Legion Post to a Plan B team's Base School (as calculated by Google Maps using the shortest driving distance setting) refuses to sponsor such team, then such team may apply to the next closest Post until a Post is located that is willing to sponsor the team, or the team may apply for admission to the Program as an Outside Sponsored team.

- a. All Outside Sponsored teams must play under the name of an identifiable athletic organization, association or other legal entity. The sponsoring entity must be duly organized and existing under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and be registered with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition, the sponsoring entity must demonstrate satisfactory financial and administrative ability to operate the Team, and a commitment to familiarize itself with and operate within the Rules of American Legion Baseball.
- b. All Outside Sponsored teams must provide their local District Chairman with confirmed up-to-date copies of their Articles of Organization and By-Laws before they will be allowed to participate in the Program. Thereafter they must provide copies of their Annual Report filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to their local District Chairman as a condition of their continued participation in the Program.

## **II. MODIFICATIONS TO PLAYER RECRUITING PLANS, TEAM REGISTRATION**

### **A. Plan A**

1. Requests to use Plan A recruiting must file their Plan A map with their local District Chairman by January 31st, of the season for which the team seeks to establish a Plan A Zone. If after consultation with the District's Team Managers, the local District Chairman approves the change to Plan A recruiting, the request and Map shall be submitted to the Chairman on or before March 1st of the season for which the team seeks to establish a Plan A Zone for consideration by the Department Baseball Committee.
  - a. The Department Baseball Committee shall retain the right to terminate and/or modify any existing Plan A Zone at its discretion.

### **B. Plan B**

1. Teams may request a change of their assigned Base School by filing the Department of Massachusetts Base School Selection Form with their local District Chairman by January 31st of the season for which the team seeks to establish a new Base School. If after consultation with the District's Team Managers, the local District Chairman approves the change of Base School, the Application shall be submitted to the Chairman on or before March 1st of the season for which the team seeks to establish a new Base School. The



Department Baseball Committee shall retain final jurisdiction of all Base School assignments.

- a. Teams shall retain their assigned Base School from year to year unless a change is authorized as herein provided or as directed by the Department Baseball Committee.
- b. Teams may not choose nor retain a Base School for the coming season unless a minimum of one (1) player from such Base School appeared on the team's approved Roster during the prior season.

### III. TEAM INSURANCE

- A. Teams may not commence practice or tryouts of any fashion, whether on or off field, before obtaining group accident and liability insurance through K&K Insurance Company as required by National Rule 1(N). Teams must obtain insurance on or before April 1st each season, after which date they shall be subject to penalty including disqualification from the Program.
  1. Teams that have not obtained insurance prior to April 1st will be assessed the following fines: (i) \$50.00 if they obtain insurance after March 31st but on or before April 15th; (ii) \$100.00 if they obtain insurance after April 15th but on or before May 1st; and \$200.00 if they obtain insurance after May 1st but on or before May 15th. Teams that have not obtained insurance prior to May 16th will be removed from the Program.

### IV. TEAM REGISTRATION

- A. All Junior and Senior teams, intending to participate in the Department of Massachusetts American Legion Baseball Program that participated in the prior season and were not suspended, must register their team with The American Legion Baseball National Office Website (**baseball.legion.org**) by January 31st of the upcoming season in order to be eligible to participate in that season. Teams that fail to register by January 31st will be assessed a fine of \$50.00 provided they register on or before February 15th; teams that register after February 15 but before March 1st will be assessed a fine of \$100.00. Teams that fail to register prior to March 1st will be removed from the Program.
  1. Post sponsored teams will not be allowed to register unless their Post's Roster Form has been filed with the Department Adjutant, outside sponsored

teams will not be allowed to register unless they are registered with the Secretary of the Commonwealth and all Annual Reports have been filed.

2. New Teams which have been accepted into the Program for the current season under Department Rule 4.I.A & B, will be instructed as to the cutoff date for their registration with the National website by the Chairman upon the team's approval.
  3. All Junior and Senior teams shall pay a \$50.00 Department Registration fee at the time they pay their National Registration fee. Teams will not be allowed to submit their roster nor participate in the Program until all Registration Fees and Fines have been paid.
- B. All local District Chairmen shall conduct a Team Registration Meeting on or before January 31st each season at which all teams shall submit a fully executed Department of Massachusetts Team Registration Form. Local District Chairmen shall report any Team that fails to submit a Department of Massachusetts Team Registration Form by January 31st to the Chairman as soon as practicable, after which date the Team will be removed from the Program, subject to its subsequent reinstated by the Chairman at his discretion.
- C. For the 2024 season, all Junior and Senior teams must submit their roster on the National Office Website by Sunday, June 2, 2024.
1. Teams that fail to submit their roster, with a minimum of 12 approved players, by Sunday June 2, 2024, will be removed from the Program.
  2. **Dual Roster Rule.** National Rule 6.E.1 has been modified as follows: “For those American Legion Baseball programs that have affiliated senior and junior teams, junior eligible players may participate on both teams. However, senior eligible players may not participate on a junior team. Those eligible junior players may appear in an affiliated senior team game provided the total number of players in such senior game does not exceed 18 players.” The following definition of an “Affiliated Team” has also been added to the National Rules: Affiliated senior and junior teams must share same base school and high school enrollment combination.
    - a. **CLARIFICATION**, the definition of “Affiliated Team” is further modified by requiring that Affiliated Teams be sponsored by the same Post or Outside Sponsor.

D. For the 2024 season, local District Chairmen shall conduct a Roster Submittal Meeting on or before Sunday, June 2, 2024, at which the following documents shall be submitted to the local District Chairman for review and approval: **CLARIFICATION**, District Chairmen shall use their best efforts to review and approve as many of their teams as possible on or before Friday, May 31, 2024.

1. Printed copy of submitted Roster;

- a. If all players appearing on a team Roster have a Combined Total Enrollment which does not exceed 6500 students, teams may use seventy five (75%) percent of the total school enrollment shown on High-Schools.com for each player's school. To obtain the correct High School Enrollment Data, click the Resource Tab on your National Team Page, then scroll down to Helpful Links and click on the High School Enrollment Figures link: <https://high-schools.com/directory/ma/>.
- b. Rosters which include players who attend schools not shown in the MIAA Member School Enrollment Data Form, or where the Combined Total Enrollment of all listed schools exceed 6500 students, must submit actual enrollment information in writing for each school listed on their roster as of March 31, 2024. **CLARIFICATION**, rosters which contain both non member and member MIAA schools but whose Combined Total Enrollment for all listed schools does not exceed 6500, will only be required to submit written enrollment information for the non member MIAA schools. Emails, faxes and/or copies of enrollment figures on school letter head shall be satisfactory to satisfy this Rule.
- c. Plan "A" Teams shall list all schools located within their Plan "A" Zone on their roster, together with enrollment information consistent with the requirements of subparagraphs (a) and (b) above.

2. Copy of fully completed and executed National Form 2 for each player listed on the team roster, team shall retain original Form 2;

3. Original birth certificate or certified document for each player listed on the Team's roster issued by a State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health, Municipal or other governmental agency authorized to certify birth documents; U.S. Government issued Passport, Military ID or Dependent ID Card; court certified copy of that portion of permanent legal adoption papers

provided they show the place and date of player's birth; and in case of foreign birth, certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service or by the Department of State that shows the date of birth, or an official birth certificate issued by a foreign country when accompanied by a letter with English translation provided such birth certificate has an official seal. A driver' license that complies with the Federal Real ID law is acceptable. Notarized photocopies of birth certificates, and/or hospital records, baptismal records, school records or certificates are not acceptable and will disqualify the player and/or the team;

4. Original fully completed and executed Department of Massachusetts Consolidated Player Registration Form.
  5. Original and copy of National Form(s) 76 and/or 77 for Junior teams, or M76 and/or M77 for Senior teams as the case may be for each player requiring such Forms, fully completed and executed, originals shall be returned to team after approval by District Chairman. **CLARIFICATION**, copies of M76 and/or M77 approved in prior seasons may be used in place of originals if they remain extant.
  6. Original National Coach's Code of Ethics Form for each coach and Manager.
  7. Google Maps printouts for all non base school players listed on the team's roster showing distances from each player's home to the team's Base School. **CLARIFICATION**, teams have the burden of proof to establish that all non base school players reside closest to their base school, thus printouts should be submitted for all nearby base schools.
- 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 final submitted roster including enrollment verification when necessary; (2) Original Form 2 for each player on the roster; (3) Original form of evidence of date of birth for each player listed on the roster as required by Department Rule 4.B.3; (4) Original fully executed Forms 76 & 77 or M76/M77 as appropriate for each player listed on the final submitted roster if necessary; and Google Maps printouts for all non Base School players.

## **RULE 5 - PLAYER REGISTRATION**

- A. Teams must conduct not less than one (1) player registration session each season in a venue open to the public as disclosed on their Department of Massachusetts Team Registration Form no later than Sunday, May 5, 2024. Teams are to take reasonable steps to publicize the date, time and location of their registration session so that players who are required by National Recruiting Rules to tryout for their team will be informed of the specifics of the session. **CLARIFICATION**, teams may conduct online registration through their team's or District's web site.
1. Teams may conduct as many registration sessions as they deem appropriate provided the local District Chairman is so informed.
  2. Teams shall provide players with information concerning its tryout schedule at the registration session which may be held in conjunction with on field tryouts at the discretion of the Team.
- B. Team Managers shall list all players registering for their team on the Department of Massachusetts Consolidated Player Registration Form which will also indicate the disposition of each player.
1. National Rule 6.E(4) is hereby amended by limiting the replacement of a player who has sustained a season ending injury with a player who tried out for such team, appears on such Team's Consolidated Player Registration Form and does not appear on any other Team's Roster other than an Affiliated Team.
  2. Players registering with Plan A Teams who do not reside within the Teams' Plan A Zone shall not be allowed to tryout or practice under any circumstance and shall be referred to the local District Chairman as soon as practicable for referral to the proper team.
  3. The name, address and school attended as of March 31, 2024 of all players registering with Plan B Teams who do not attend the Team's Base School and are not returning players from a prior season shall be reported to the local District Chairman as soon as possible for verification of eligibility. Local District Chairmen will verify such player's eligibility to tryout and so inform the Manager, or if not eligible, refer the player to the proper team.
    - a. Teams intending to roster non Base School players shall print out and submit to their local District Chairman the results of the calculations

shown by Google Maps (utilizing the shortest driving distance setting) which verifies such player resides closer to such Team's Base School than to any other Base School prior to allowing the player to tryout for the Team. **CLARIFICATION**, this Rule shall not prohibit players from trying out for multiple teams provided they are informed of the order of the teams in which they are required to tryout by each Team Manager.

- b. **CLARIFICATION** the term "Base School Boundary" as used in the definition of a "Base School" appearing in the National Rules shall mean the area assigned to a public high school by the local school committee to which all public high school students must attend. All other high schools situated within such area shall assume such area as their Base School Boundary.

C. Only players listed on a Team's Department of Massachusetts Consolidated Player Registration Form shall be eligible to tryout for, and if cut, receive a National Rule 4.E Transfer (Form #76 for Junior Teams or M76 for Senior Teams) from such team.

1. Players who fail to register for a team shall not be eligible for a National Rule 4.E Transfer (Form #76 or M76 as the case may be) from such team, nor shall players who have exercised a National Rule 4.C Option (Form #77 or M77) be eligible for such a Transfer, nor may such players be substituted for a player who has sustained a season ending injury.
2. Eligible players who have been refused an opportunity to register and/or tryout (weather permitting) for a team prior to Sunday, May 26, 2024, may be eligible for a National Rule 4.E Transfer (Form #76 or M76 as the case may be) at the Chairman's discretion, who's decision shall be final.
3. National Rule 4.C Option shall only be available to players who attend high school during the 2023 - 2024 school year but did not attend the public high school serving their parent's legal residence.
  - a. Players who have exercised their Rule 4.C Option, are not eligible for a Transfer during the remainder of their ALB eligibility.
4. Senior Division: Transfer Form #M76, after having been fully executed by all necessary parties and subsequently submitted for approval to the local District Chairman, shall become final and binding upon the player, the player's parents and the team(s) for the remainder of the player's eligibility

upon approval of the team Roster by the Chairman. Players may only receive one Transfer during their eligibility.

5. Senior Division: Declaration Form #M77, after having been fully executed by all necessary parties and subsequently submitted for approval to the local District Chairman, shall become final and binding upon the player, the player's parents and the team for the remainder of the player's eligibility upon approval of the team Roster by the Chairman.
6. Junior Division: Transfer Form #76 and Declaration Form #77 shall be used for all Junior Teams and shall remain extent for the season 2024 only.

## **RULE 6 - LOCAL DISTRICT CHAIRMEN**

- A. Local District Chairman shall have signatory authority to execute National Forms 76, M76, 77 and M77 on behalf of the Chairman.
  1. In the event a player requires a Form 76/M76 and/or Form 77/M77 from two or more teams in two or more Districts, then all local District Chairmen must approve the Form 76/M76 before the player may appear on a Team's roster. Only the Chairman may approve Forms 76/M76 and/or 77/M77 for players who cross State lines.
- B. Local District Chairmen shall be in charge of all games during the regular District playing season including District Playoffs. Districts may elect to play 7 or 9 inning games during the regular season and may adopt National Rule 1.U (10 Run Rule) provided the election appears in the District Rules.
- C. No changes in the District playing schedule may be made without the prior approval of the local District Chairman. All postponed or suspended games should be rescheduled by the teams involved subject to the approval of the local District Chairman. If the teams involved can not agree on a new date for a rescheduled game, the local District Chairman shall reschedule the game at his discretion, which decision shall be final.
- D. Local District Chairmen shall not allow a manager, coach, or assistant coach of a Post sponsored American Legion Baseball team, whose services have been terminated by such Post, to manage or coach an Outside Sponsored team within their District during the season following the termination without the prior written approval of the Chairman.

## **RULE 7 - DISTRICT RULES**

- A. Local District Chairmen, after consultation with their team managers, must formulate rules for their Districts which are not in conflict with Department and/or National Rules and which are for the good of the American Legion Baseball Program. Local District Chairmen must submit copies of their District Rules to the Chairman for approval on or before April 1, 2024, in electronic format.
- B. The Chairman will inform the local District Chairman of his action on the proposed District Rules as soon as practicable at which point the District Rules, as amended by the Chairman, will become final for the 2024 season.
- C. During the Regular season, a Regulation Game 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. A Regulation Game which terminates in a tie, shall be declared a tie game in Districts which base its standings on points, each team shall receive one point and shall not be replayed.
- D. 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.
- E. Team standings in all Districts shall be based upon points; two (2) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) point for games that end in a tie.

## **RULE 8 - DISTRICT CHAMPIONS**

- I. Senior Division - Department Tournament
  - A. The final date for District competition leading to the Department Tournament shall be Thursday, July 25, 2024, at which time the local District Chairmen shall report their District Champion.



1. Unless District Rules contain tie breaker provisions, all ties for Department Tournament berths will be determined by coin toss(es) by the local District Chairman no later than Thursday, July 25, 2024.
2. The 2 Districts with the most number of Senior teams, which for 2024 will be Districts 6 & 10, will be awarded a second berth in the Department Tournament.

## II. Junior Division

- A. The final date for District competition shall be Thursday, August 1, 2022 at which time all District Standings shall become final and the local District Chairmen shall report the final standings to the Chairman. No District games may be played after Thursday, August 1, 2024, under any circumstances.
  1. Unless District Rules contain tie breaker provisions, all ties for post season playoff berths will be determined by coin toss(es) by the local District Chairman no later than completion of play on Thursday, August 1, 2024.
  2. The 3 Districts with the most number of Junior teams, which for 2024 will be Districts 3, 8 & 10, will be awarded a second berth in the Department Tournament.

## **RULE 9 - SUBSTITUTION**

- A. **Designated and/or courtesy runners and/or free substitution are not permitted in any American Legion official game.** However, Districts may adopt the following Re-entry Rule for their Senior and/or Junior Programs for use during the Regular Season **only** by including it in their District Rules: "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".
  1. **The Courtesy Runner Rule, National Rule 1.G, has not been adopted and may not be used in any American Legion Game in the Department of Massachusetts.**
- B. The Designated Hitter Rule as provided by Rule 5.10 of the Official Baseball Rules is allowed. Please note that neither the NCAA nor the Federated Designated Hitter Rule may be used in any official game nor may the newly adopted MLB Rule 5.11(b) Amended Designated Hitter Rule be used. Any

team violating this rule shall forfeit all of their games and be suspended from further play for the remainder of the season.

## **RULE 10 - SUSPENSIONS**

- A. Any manager, coach, player or other official in any capacity with the American Legion Baseball Program who conducts themselves in an ungentlemanly or unsportsmanlike manner, whether in games, meetings or activities relating thereto, or who otherwise deals with the American Legion Baseball Program in a manner which adversely reflects upon, or otherwise discredits the Program or officials of the Program, whether in the news media or otherwise, shall be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension from further participation in the Program by either the appropriate local District Chairman, the Chairman, or their respective designees.
1. All such suspensions shall be in writing and briefly outline the reason(s) for the suspension and its duration.
  2. Persons who have been suspended by a local District Chairman or his designee, may appeal their suspension to the Chairman by filing a typewritten appeal within ten (10) days of their suspension. The Chairman, at his sole discretion, may elect to convene the full Baseball Committee and Subcommittee to hear such an appeal but shall be under no obligation to do so. The Chairman shall rule on the appeal as soon as practical and his ruling shall be final.
- B. The implementation of suspensions shall not be delayed pending the outcome of appeals.
- C. Any manager, coach or other official who knowingly uses or allows an ineligible player to participate in the American Legion Baseball Program, shall be suspended forthwith from the Program and all games in which such player has appeared, shall be forfeit.
- D. Any person who violates any American Legion Baseball Rule including, but not limited to, the National Background Check Resolution, shall be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension from further participation in the Program.

E. Junior and/or Senior Teams which have forfeited<sup>1</sup> two (2) games in a season shall be forthwith removed from the Program and shall not be allowed to participate in the Program in future seasons until they file a New Team Application which has been approved by its local District Chairman and the Department Baseball Committee.

1. Senior teams which have been suspended for forfeiting two (2) games in a season shall not be readmitted to the Senior Division until the team has paid a \$500.00 non refundable fine to the Department Baseball Committee and the Team Manager and/or Head Coach shall be suspended pending a hearing by the Baseball Committee. Senior Teams which have been suspended for forfeiting two (2) games in a season twice in any five (5) consecutive year period shall not be readmitted to the Senior Division until the team has paid a \$500.00 non refundable fine to the Department Baseball Committee, the Team Manager and/or Head Coach shall be suspended pending a hearing by the Baseball Committee, and the team completes two (2) consecutive successful seasons (i.e. 2025 & 2026) in the Junior Division without forfeit. If the Senior team has an Affiliated Junior team at the time of its suspension for forfeiting two games for a second time in a five (5) year period, it may not reapply for admission to the Senior Division until the Junior team has completed two (2) consecutive successful seasons (i.e. 2025 & 2026) without forfeit.

2. Junior teams which have been suspended for forfeiting two (2) games in a season within any consecutive five (5) year period shall not be readmitted to the Junior Division until the team has paid a \$250.00 non-refundable fine to the Baseball Committee and the Manager shall be suspended pending a hearing by the Baseball Committee. Junior teams which have been suspended for forfeiting two (2) games in a season twice within any consecutive five (5) year period shall not be readmitted to the Junior Division until the team has been readmitted by the Baseball Committee and paid a \$250.00 non-refundable fine to the Baseball Committee.

## **RULE 11 - PROTESTS**

A. Official regular season games which have been properly played under protest must be followed by a typewritten outline of the facts, citing the Official Rules of Baseball in question, signed by the team manager and delivered to the appropriate local District Chairman, by facsimile copy, certified mail, e-mail or

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<sup>1</sup> For purposes of the sanctions imposed by this Rule, games which begin with nine (9) players on each team but end in forfeit resulting from injury or ejection shall not be counted toward the two (2) games in one season.

hand delivery within 48 hours of the conclusion of the protested game. Only protests involving interpretations of the Official Rules of Baseball shall be considered. The local District Chairman shall rule on the protest in writing and promptly notify the team manager of his decision.

1. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent local District Chairmen from forming Protest Committees to hear and decide these types of protests within their District, provided, however, that such Protest Committee has been established by the District Rules.
- B. Team managers who have been aggrieved by adverse rulings on properly protested games may appeal such decision to the Chairman within 48 hours of their receipt of the local District Chairman's written decision by facsimile copy, certified mail, e-mail or hand delivery. The appeal must be typewritten, signed by the team manager and include the original protest and the local District Chairman's decision. The Chairman, after consultation with the Head Umpire, shall rule on the appeal as soon as possible and his ruling shall be final with no further right of appeal.
- C. Team managers who have been aggrieved by decisions of their local District Chairman on all other matters including proposed team managers of new teams whose admission has been denied, as well as all other matters other than interpretations of the Official Rules of Baseball by their local District Chairman, may appeal such decision to the Chairman within 48 hours of their receipt of the local District Chairman's written decision. The appeal must be typewritten, signed by the team manager and filed with the Chairman by facsimile copy, certified mail, e-mail or hand delivery. The Chairman, at his sole discretion, may elect to convene the full Baseball Committee to hear such appeal but shall be under no obligation to do so. The Chairman shall rule on the appeal as soon as possible and his ruling shall be final.
1. Team managers may appeal the Chairman's ruling on interpretations of National Rules provided the appeal is in complete compliance with National Rule 10 including, but not limited to, having been first filed with the Chairman. Any person who files an appeal directly with the National Appeals Board shall be subject to disciplinary action which shall include a \$200 fine.

## **RULE 12 - PENALTIES**

- A. Any manager, coach, assistant coach, player or official, regardless of their capacity within the American Legion Baseball Program, who violates any National, Department, or District Rule, shall be subject to disciplinary action as provided by these Rules; but if no penalty has been so provided, then such person shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Department Baseball Committee. Ignorance of a duly promulgated American Legion Baseball Rule, regardless of the level, shall not constitute a valid defense for such action.
  
- B. Any person who intentionally misrepresents an American Legion Baseball Rule with the specific intent of causing a player(s) to violate any such Rule, shall be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, immediate suspension from further participation in the American Legion Baseball Program by either the Chairman, the appropriate local District Chairman or the Department Baseball Committee.

## **RULE 13 - DEPARTMENT CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY**

- I. Senior Division - Department Final Eight Team Championship.
  - 1. The five (5) District Champions plus the runner-up in Districts 6 & 10 under Rule 8, together with the host team will meet in the Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament.
  - 2. Local District Chairmen, or their representative, shall personally inspect their District's Team Credentials and certify to the Chairman that all Credentials are Complete.
  - 3. The 2024 Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament will be held at Fitton Field on the campus of the College of the Holly Cross, Worcester, MA, beginning on Saturday, July 27, 2024 and concluding on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, weather permitting.
  - 4. The host team will be Shrewsbury Post 397.
  - 5. Any Team that is unable to produce a complete set of its Credentials or has less than 12 certified players available to play shall be removed from Department Championship Tournament and may be replaced by the next available runner-up team as determined by the Chairman.

## **SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024**

Game 1	District 4	vs.	District 8	10:00 a.m.
Game 2	District 3	vs.	District 10B <sup>2</sup>	1:00 p.m.
Game 3	District 10A	vs.	District 6B	4:30 p.m.
Game 4	District 6A	vs.	Shrewsbury	7:30 p.m.

## **SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024**

Game 5	Loser Game 1	vs.	Loser Game 2	10:00 a.m.
Game 6	Loser Game 3	vs.	Loser Game 4	1:00 p.m.
Game 7	Winner Game 1	vs.	Winner Game 2	4:00 p.m.
Game 8	Winner Game 3	vs.	Winner Game 4	7:00 p.m.

## **MONDAY, JULY 29, 2024**

Game 9	Winner Game 6	vs.	Loser Game 7	1:00 p.m.
Game 10	Winner Game 5	vs.	Loser Game 8	4:00 p.m.
Game 11	Winner Game 7	vs.	Winner Game 8	7:00 p.m.

## **TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2024**

Game 12	Winner Game 9	vs.	Loser Game 11	4:00 p.m.
Game 13	Winner Game 10	vs.	Winner Game 11	7:00 p.m.

## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024**

Game 14	Winner Game 12	vs.	Winner Game 13	4:00 p.m.
Game 15	If necessary.			

7. Pairings for Games 12 and 13 will not match previous opponents against each other unless absolutely necessary. (Tournament Director has further instructions). If three teams remain after Game 13, the winner of Game 11 automatically draws the bye for Game 14.
8. All games shall be under the sole jurisdiction of the Department Baseball Committee, represented by its Chairman and his designees.
9. Umpires shall be assigned by the Chairman or his designee.

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<sup>2</sup> District Champions are designated as "A", Runner-Up are designated as "B".

10. The Chairman will provide complete Tournament Rules and instructions to the participating teams.

## II. Junior Division Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament

### A. Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament.

1. The four (4) District Champions plus the runner-up in Districts 3, 8 & 10 under Rule 8, together with the host team will meet in the Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament.
2. Local District Chairmen, or their representative, shall personally inspect their District's Team Credentials and certify to the Chairman that all Credentials are Complete.
3. The 2024 Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament will be held at Middleboro High School Varsity Field, beginning on Saturday, August 3, 2024, and concluding on Wednesday, August 7, 2024, weather permitting.
4. The host team will be Middleboro Post 64 Junior Team.
5. Any Team that is unable to produce a complete set of its Credentials or has less than 12 certified players available to play shall be removed from Department Championship .Tournament and may be replaced by the next available runner-up team as determined by the Chairman.

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2024**

Game 1	District 8A	vs.	District 10B <sup>3</sup>	10:00 a.m.
Game 2	District 3B	vs.	District 6	1:00 p.m.
Game 3	District 10A	vs.	District 8B	4:30 p.m.
Game 4	District 3A	vs.	Middleboro	7:30 p.m.

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<sup>3</sup> District Champions are designated as "A" and Runner-ups as "B".

## **SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024**

Game 5	Loser Game 1	vs. Loser Game 2	10:00 a.m.
Game 6	Loser Game 3	vs. Loser Game 4	1:00 p.m.
Game 7	Winner Game 1	vs. Winner Game 2	4:00 p.m.
Game 8	Winner Game 3	vs. Winner Game 4	7:00 p.m.

## **MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024**

Game 9	Winner Game 6	vs. Loser Game 7	1:00 p.m.
Game 10	Winner Game 5	vs. Loser Game 8	4:00 p.m.
Game 11	Winner Game 7	vs. Winner Game 8	7:00 p.m.

## **TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024**

Game 12	Winner Game 9	vs. Loser Game 11	4:00 p.m.
Game 13	Winner Game 10	vs. Winner Game 11	7:00 p.m.

## **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2024**

Game 14	Winner Game 12	vs. Winner Game 13	4:00 p.m.
Game 15	If necessary.		7:00 p.m.

5. Pairings for Games 12 and 13 will not match previous opponents against each other unless absolutely necessary. (Tournament Director has further instructions). If three teams remain after Game 13, the winner of Game 11 automatically draws the bye for Game 14.
6. The Tournament shall be under the sole jurisdiction of the Department Baseball Committee, represented by its Chairman and his designees.
7. Umpires shall be assigned by the Chairman or his designee.
8. The Chairman will provide complete Tournament Rules and instructions to the participating teams.

### **RULE 14 - DUAL PARTICIPATION**

- A. During the regular season, players and/or teams, with their Manager's written consent, may participate in other amateur baseball programs, tournaments, exhibition games, showcases or combines provided such participation in no



way interferes with the player's and/or team's responsibilities to the American Legion Baseball Program and provided the Chairman assents in writing in advance.

1. Players and/or team Managers may seek permission from the Chairman by filing the fully executed Dual Participation Authorization Request Form (available on the Department's web site) with their local District Chairman prior to participating in the event. Players and/or teams found to have violated this rule are subject to disciplinary action including suspension from the Program.
2. Local District Chairmen shall have authority to approve the Request provided no portion of the requested time period extends beyond the District Playoffs. Once approved, local District Chairmen shall forthwith forward the Form to the Chairman.

B. The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Dual participation shall no way interfere with a player's responsibility to his American Legion Baseball team. Once department post-season tournament play has begun, the department baseball chairman cannot grant permission to dual participate. Any player missing any American Legion post-season tournament game shall be ineligible from further post-season tournament play. **CLARIFICATION** - Players attending military assignment, MLB sanctioned invitation only event, or college of enrollment orientation workouts may be granted an exception on a case-by-case basis, with proper documentation. Prior written approval from the American Legion Baseball Committee Chairman is required.

### C. BAY STATE GAMES - ALL EVENTS

Players may tryout for any Bay State Games event provided no more than two players from any one team may be released to compete in the Bay State Games. American Legion players shall not be released to participate in the Bay State Games if any portion of the event they will be participating in will take place during Department Championship Tournament.

1. Team Managers who will not release players to participate in the 2024 Bay State Games must notify their local District Chairman in writing prior to May 15, 2024, otherwise it will be presumed their players will be released.

2. Players who have been informed by Bay State Game officials that they have been selected to compete in the Bay State Games will be provided the Department Bay State Release Form by their Bay State coach. After the Form has been fully executed by the player and parents, it must be submitted to their Team Manager.
3. Team Managers must forward a copy of the Form to their local District Chairman. No more than 2 players may be released from any one team to participate in the Bay State Games, all events.
4. Players who participate in the Bay State Games without a proper Release shall be suspended from the Program for the remainder of the American Legion season including post season play.
5. Team Managers are encouraged to discuss their pitching rotation with Bay State Game coaches for their pitchers who have been chosen to participate in the Bay State Games.
  - a. Bay State Game Rules limit pitchers to 4 innings per game and 7 innings for the entire Games.
6. Bay State Game Rules require their coaches to release players in time to attend their American Legion games, thus players should use their best effort to return to their American Legion team in time for its games.

## ***DEPARTMENT GRADUATES OF THE YEAR***

1990 Rick Murphy/Mike Casey, Owners Pittsfield Red Sox

1991 Mike Labrie, Manager Aldenville Post 337

1992 Fran Healy, Announcer, New York Mets

1993 Dan Duquette, General Manager, Montreal Expos

1994 Dick Paster, Manager Westwood Post 320, Baseball Committee Chairman

1995 Nick Malvesti, Morrisette Post 294

1996 Turk Wendel, Pitcher, Chicago Cubs

1997 Bob Brown, Manager, Canton Post 24

2002 Ray Cattaneo, Manager, Morrisette Post 294

2003 Tom Arruda, Manager, Spindle City

2004 John T. Mahan, Manager, Clinton Post 50

2005 Paul Dumas, Manager, Foxboro Post 93

2006 Merrill E. Fleck, Sr., Past Dept. Athletic Committee Chairman

2007 Dan Carroll, District 6 Head Umpire

2008 Ralph White, Manager, Walpole Post 104

2009 Andy Rogers, District 2 Chairman

2010 Rick Savinen, District 2 Chairman

2012 Greg Gagne, Coach, South Attleboro Post 312

2013 Bill Travers, Manager, Foxboro Post 93, Pitcher, Milwaukee Brewers Hall of Fame

2014 Robert Manosh, District 9 Chairman

2015 Paul Borkman, Past Department Head Umpire

2016 Roger Gagnon, Past Dept. Athletic Committee Chairman

2017 Tom Clews , District 5 Head Umpire

2018 Joseph Iarrobino, Manager, Andover Post 8

2019 Manny Lima, Manager, New Bedford Post 1

2021 Daniel Fabrizio, Manager, Braintree Post 86

2022 Brian Collins, Manager, E. Springfield Post, Past District 3 Chairman

2023 Thom Roache, Manager, Rockland Post 147

2024 Len Noce, Manager Sudbury Post 191, District 5 Vice Chairman, Member Baseball Committee

## **CONCLUSION**

The rules and regulations for American Legion Baseball have developed over the years, based upon the experience, both good and bad, given to the Department Baseball Athletic Committee by managers, coaches, parents and other Legionnaires. The Department Athletic Committee meets throughout the year to discuss and make recommendations for the good of the program. Changes affecting the national program are forwarded to the National Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee, who in turn, make final recommendations to the National Americanism Commission who either adopt or reject these recommendations. Department Chairmen and members of the National Americanism Commission vote on policy, procedures and rules. It is those suggestions passed on from parents, coaches and team managers which have allowed the American Legion Baseball program to become the most prestigious amateur baseball program in America.

For ninety-nine seasons, The American Legion has sponsored this baseball program. American Legion Baseball is the largest, nationwide, teenage baseball program in America. Literally, millions of young players have played the game. This program has developed over the past ten decades thanks to the dedication of hundreds of thousands of volunteer American Legion members. To the Coaches, Managers, Sponsors and the thousands of Legion Volunteers who help make the program exist, we extend our most sincere appreciation.

## IMPORTANT 2024 DATES

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- January 31** Final date to submit New Team Applications or Plan "B" Base School changes unless District Rules provide earlier dates. Final date to submit Team Registration Forms to District Chairmen.
- March 1** Final date for District Chairmen to submit New Team Applications, Plan "B" Base School or Plan A changes to Department Athletic Committee Chairman.
- March 31** Establishment of Player's Legal Residence, parent's domicile and school enrollment. Final date for teams to obtain insurance from K & K Insurance without Department fine.
- May 5** Final date for all teams to hold initial Player Registration Session.
- Jun 2** Final date for all teams to submit rosters on the National Website (baseball.legion.org).
- July 25** Final date Sr. games may be played at District level. District Champion must be named no later than this date.
- July 27** Final Eight Team Sr. Department Championship Tournament begins at Fitton Field on the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.
- August 1** Final date Jr. Games may be played at District level. District Champions must be named no later than this date.
- August 3** Department All Star Games at Fitton Field on the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA; and Final Eight Team Jr. Department Championship Tournament begins at Middleboro High School Varsity Field, Middleboro, MA.
- August 7** Regional One Tournament begins at Gill Stadium, Manchester, NH.
- August 15** American Legion World Series begins at Shelby, North Carolina.

**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL**  
**Past Department Senior Division Chairman's Cup Champions**

2012 - Billerica Post 268  
2013 - Milford Post 59  
2021 - Franklin Post 75  
2022 - Andover Post 8

**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL**  
**Past Department Junior Division Champions**

2008 - Somerset Post 228  
2009 - Plymouth Post 40  
2010 - Taunton Post 103\*  
2011 - Norwood Post 70  
2012 - Norwood Post 70  
2013 - Methuen Post 122  
2014 - Braintree Post 86\*  
2015 - Methuen Post 122  
2016 - Methuen Post 122\*  
2017 - Hudson Post 100  
2018 - Franklin Post 75  
2019 - Lynn Post 291  
2020 - No Program  
2021 - Weymouth Post 79\*  
2022 - Sandwich Post 188\*  
2023 - Pittsfield Post 68

\* Region One Champion

# AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

## Past Department Senior Division Champions

1926 - Rutland Post 310	1971 - Leominster Post 151
1927 - No Program	1972 - Milford Post 59
1928 - Worcester Post 5	1973 - Pittsfield Tyler Aces
1929 - New Bedford Post 1	1974 - E Springfield Post 420
1930 - Milford Post 59	1975 - West Quincy Post 294
1931 - Milford Post 59	1976 - So Hadley Post 260
1932 - Springfield Post 21	1977 - Shrewsbury Post 397
1933 - New Bedford Post 1	1978 - E Springfield Post 420
1934 - Springfield Post 21	1979 - W Boylston Post 204
1935 - East Lynn Post 291	1980 - Brockton Spartan A.C.
1936 - Lowell Post 87	1981 - Somerville Post 19
1937 - East Lynn Post 291	1982 - Braintree Post 86
1938 - Revere Post 61	1983 - Natick Post 107
1939 - Medford Post 45	1984 - Braintree Post 86
1940 - Pittsfield Post 68	1985 - Norwood Post 70
1941 - Brockton Post 35	1986 - Norwood Post 70
1942 - Norwood Post 70	1987 - Norwood Post 70
1943 - Lynn Post 6	1988 - Lynn Post 6
1944 - Brockton Post 35	1989 - Braintree Post 86
1945 - Holyoke Post 25	1990 - Fall River Spindle City
1946 - Holyoke Post 25	1991 - Lowell Post 87 294
1947 - Medford Post 45	1992 - West Quincy Post 294
1948 - Brockton Post 35	1993 - Sandwich Post 188
1949 - Pittsfield Post 68	1994 - Walpole Post 104
1950 - Somerville Post 19	1995 - Swampscott Mariners
1951 - Pittsfield Post 68	1996 - Swampscott Mariners
1952 - Milford Post 59	1997 - New Bedford Post 1
1953 - Milford Post 59	1998 - Gloucester Post 3
1954 - Brockton Post 35	1999 - So Attleboro Post 312
1955 - Everett Post 176	2000 - Lowell Post 87
1956 - Everett Post 176	2001 - Milford Post 59
1957 - Pittsfield Post 68	2002 - Sandwich Post 188
1958 - Everett Post 176	2003 - Worcester Post 323
1959 - Milford Post 59	2004 - Andover Post 8
1960 - Pittsfield Post 68	2005 - Sandwich Post 188
1961 - Chicopee Post 452	2006 - Milton Post 114
1962 - Somerville Post 19	2007 - Brockton Post 35
1963 - Somerville Post 19	2008 - Hanover Post 149
1964 - E Longmeadow Post 293	2009 - Newburyport Post 150
1965 - Northborough Post 234	2010 - E Longmeadow Post 293
1966 - Milford Post 59	2011 - Worcester Post 201
1967 - East Lynn Post 291	2012 - Barnstable Post 206
1968 - East Springfield Post 420	2013 - Barnstable Post 206
1969 - Lynn Post 6	2014 - Milford Post 59
1970 - Milford Post 59	2015 - Pittsfield Post 68



**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL**  
**Past Department Senior Division Champions**

2016 - Shrewsbury Post 397  
2017 - Braintree Post 86  
2018 - Braintree Post 86  
2019 - Lawrence O/S  
2020 - No Program  
2021 - Beverly Post 331  
2022 - Franklin Post 75  
2023 - Franklin Post 75

# **American Legion Baseball Code of Sportsmanship**

As an American Legion Baseball Player, Coach or Official,

**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 CONTROL IN VICTORY**

**KEEP A SOUND SOUL, A CLEAN MIND, AND A HEALTHY BODY.**