



State of New Jersey

American Legion Baseball Rules and Regulations

2016

DRAFT – February 2, 2016

NEW JERSEY AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL 2016 RULES AND REGULATIONS

All Teams, Managers, Coaches, and Players participate in New Jersey American Legion Baseball at the invitation of the New Jersey American Legion Baseball Chairman. The invitation can be and will be withdrawn for conduct deemed to be unbecoming to the American Legion. Every team that shows being sponsored by an American Legion Post on their Form 1 (Roster) and their insurance policy must make sure they have the approval of said Post.

Teams are required to play in the League based on the location of their Base School. Exceptions to this may be approved by the State Baseball Chairman. Where two League Chairmen have worked out an agreement, an exception may be granted. If an agreement cannot be reached between the 2 League Chairmen, the Department Baseball Chairman will make the decision. Other circumstances may allow exceptions. Example – A team has played for several years in a league and a new league is established. The Baseball Chairman in consultation with the involved League Chairmen, will approve the exception or revoke a previous allowed exception.

Team Entry Forms and other required documentation must be filed in New Jersey by 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, **June 19th** with the Department Baseball Chairman or appropriate District Vice Chairman. Each League will pay a League Registration Fee equal to "Number of Teams x \$100". The check will be payable to The American Legion, Department of New Jersey.

Each League Chairman/President is responsible for ensuring that every umpire has Official's Insurance before being permitted to officiate a baseball game during the regular and post-season games. Under no circumstances is a person permitted to officiate a game unless he/she provides evidence of Official's Insurance in good standing. NJSIAA and CBUAO Officials are acceptable. If not a certified member in good standing of either organization, an individual must provide a copy of the insurance card provided to the official when a policy is issued.

RULE #1 - PLAYING REGULATIONS

(A) New Jersey American Legion Baseball will follow the Official Baseball Rules as authorized by the Commissioner of Major League Baseball and published each year by Triumph Books Official Rules Major League Baseball 312-939-3330). Modifications of these rules, as noted in Rule 1, generally pertain to matters of safety, equipment and insurance. They are made with the welfare of the players and coaches in mind. All Leagues are required to play according to The American Legion National Rules. Each League Baseball Chairman must submit their League Rules to the State Baseball Chairman by April 15th. All League Rules must be approved by the Department Baseball Committee.

(1) Coaches shall be mandated to wear a helmet when in the coaching box. MLB is leaving the decision as to what type of helmet the coach wishes to wear up to the coach or club. But the coach has to wear a protective helmet while in the coaching box. He can wear a single, double or no flap helmet. If he does not have a helmet - that coach cannot remain on the field. Coaches must remain in the coach's box until the ball is put into play. (For safety reasons MLB [and the Legion] will not allow coaches to creep towards home plate until the ball is in play). Coaches must have both feet inside the front of the coach's box. However if the coach wants to move away from the plate - out the back of the box, MLB will not mandate he remain in the box. If a coach is outside the box (closer to home plate) he will be warned once and on the 2nd infraction, will be ejected. If he is out of the back of the coach's box this is not considered an infraction.

(B) Teams must be in a like uniform to play Inter-County, County, State Tournament and National play. At that time, the American Legion Baseball insignia must be on the left sleeve of the uniform or left breast. No one shall be allowed to participate unless the aforementioned Rule #1 (B) is adhered to.

(1) Uniform shall be as required by National Rules.

(C) A non-playing adult, 21 or over, must be in charge in the dugout and/or on the bench at all times. A coach must be uniformed in order to go onto the playing field. Only registered Coaches who have passed the background check are allowed in the dugout.

(D) In New Jersey, 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. All players are required to wear a double-flapped, ear-protective helmet while batting, running the bases, and while on deck. Catchers are required to wear a safety helmet, throat protector and protective cup, in addition to normal catcher's equipment. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, a catcher must wear a mask. Any player who refuses to do so shall be ejected from the game.

(E) Baseball Requirements for Season Play - All Registered American Legion Teams in New Jersey will use the Diamond D1-AL Baseball.

(F) Bat Rule – NJ American Legion Baseball will follow the National American Legion Baseball Bat Rule – Only Wood or BBCOR – refer to National Rule Book.

(G) All teams must have a first aid kit with them in the dugout at all American Legion Baseball games. Failure to have a First Aid Kit shall result in forfeiture of game.

(H) A designated hitter may be used for the pitcher only. The DH will follow the American League Designated Hitter Rule as published by Triumph Books.

(I) The use of any form of tobacco (smoking, chewing, and snuff) or the possession of any tobacco like products such as bubblegum tins by a player, coach, manager or any official accompanying any American Legion Baseball Team while on the playing field, benches, in the bullpen or dugouts is prohibited. Any individual violating this rule will be ejected from the game and the playing area. Additionally, this individual may be subject to additional penalties. The League Chairman is encouraged to monitor individuals involved in previous incidents and to insure this incident is not repeated.

(J) The use of any illegal performance enhancement drug or unprescribed steroid is strictly prohibited. Any individual player or coach violating this rule will be immediately terminated as an active participant and be permanently banned from any involvement whatsoever, relating to New Jersey American Legion Baseball. This is to be considered as a zero tolerance policy. There will be no exceptions.

(K) The registration deadline to register and to purchase insurance is May 15th. The deadline to submit rosters shall be June 15th for the 2016 Season. Any teams that register after the May 15th National deadline will be assessed a \$200 additional fee. The fee will be automatically assessed on May 15th by the on-line registration system. Any teams whose insurance is not paid by June 1st will be eliminated from state tournament play.

Every American Legion Baseball team must purchase both group liability and accident insurance from the American Legion agent of record. Teams must have coverage by their first tryout / practice. Any team that fails to purchase insurance from the approved carrier by the required date, shall be disqualified from competition in the state tournament and the team will not be counted in the league's "number of teams count" used to determine number of positions in the state tournament.

(L) A 10 run rule is in effect after 6 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead by 10 runs or after 7 innings if the visiting team has had the opportunity to bat in that inning in a 9-inning game.

A 10 run rule is in effect after 4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead by 10 runs or after 5 innings if the visiting team has had the opportunity to bat in that inning in a 7-inning game.

(M) Coaches will ensure that all Local, State, and Federal regulations are followed, including driving privileges, age restrictions, etc.

(N) It is required that all teams do background checks on their Coaches. Teams submitting their application for participating in New Jersey American Legion Baseball will not be approved by the State Baseball Chairman unless the individual who initiated the application has passed his background check. Upon doing "Final Submit", Teams and Team Rosters will not be approved by the State Baseball Chairman unless the manager and all coaches have passed their background check. This is enforced by the computer systems logic and cannot be waived.

RULE #2 - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

(A) Competition is open to players for 19 & Under born on or after January 1, **1997**, 17 & Under born on or after January 1, **1999**, and 15 & Under born on or after January 1, **2001**. Players must be age 13 by January 1, **2016**. Record of birth must be by Certificate bearing the appropriate seal or certified copy of such from the Bureau of Vital Statistics or Department of Health or an accepted certified birth recording agency of this state. Official Federal Department certificates are acceptable with a parent's affidavit on the back stating it is a true copy. Passports and Drivers Licenses are also acceptable.

(B) In case of foreign birth, a player will present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services or by the Department of State that shows the birth date of the bearer. Official birth certificates issued by a foreign country are acceptable when accompanied by a letter with an English translation, and such birth certificate must have an official seal. Passports and Drivers Licenses are acceptable also.

(C) Records of birth must be an original or a state certified document from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, or Department of Health, or other government agency authorized to certify birth documents. A raised seal must be visible on the state certified document.

(1) Notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital birth certificates, baptismal records, school records or certificates are not acceptable proof of age and will disqualify a player and/or team.

(D) It shall be mandatory that all players competing in American Legion Baseball in New Jersey will have their parents or legal guardian(s) sign the National A.L. Player Agreement Form #2.

(E) All requests for interpretation of rules because of disagreement, on player eligibility beyond the league chairman must be in writing and follow the organization structure. (Organizational Structure: After League Chairman to District Director to District Vice-Chairman to State Chairman). The Department Baseball Committee will honor no verbal requests.

RULE #3 - PLAYER RECRUITMENT

(A) New Jersey, in accordance with the National Rules, is currently playing under Plan "B", except for those counties granted permission by National to use Plan "A".

(B) Player Transfers:

(1) Any player not attending a base school must play for the team nearest their legal residence. The next closest base school is determined by using Mapquest.com to calculate the shortest driving distance.

(2) If the player is cut from that team's roster he must get a signed National Transfer Form #76 and try out for the next nearest team. If the player is cut from that next closest team, he must get a signed Transfer Form #76. A Player is limited to 3 Transfers. A Transfer #76 Form is required from each team. The exception to this rule is private and parochial schools which must comply with National Rule 4.C. Coaches should keep copies of this form for themselves.

Note: If a Player played on a senior team in the prior year but because of the addition of new teams or Base School Changes and he now requires more than 3 transfers, he may finish his years of eligibility on his former team and obtain more than 3 transfers.

(3) Email agreements / sign offs from coaches may be attached to a 76 Form. The 76 Form with the player and parent's signature on the 76 Form are required.

(4) The Transfer Form #76 will be good for only 1 year.

(5) Should a Post not grant a release to a non-base school player who attended a tryout, the player's name must appear on the team's National Form #1 and every opportunity must be given to insure that the player can actively participate with the team. If a Team wanted to recruit a player and the Player did not attend a tryout or he previously stated he was not playing, an automatic transfer is not granted. Upon request by the League Chairman, the coach will need to document the player's nonattendance and/or the player prior decision that he is not playing.

(6) Once a team's roster has been electronically submitted, the coach cannot sign any additional 76 Transfers Forms

(7) Base School Players who are not rostered are not automatically transferred. For a team to select a player from another team's "area" or base school, a Player Transfer Form #76 is required. If no transfer is granted, those players are ineligible to play.

(C) National Form #77

(1) All Players attending a Non Public School or a school outside the school district where they reside, must sign a National Form #77. Coaches should keep copies of this form for themselves. The #77 Form is good for only 1 year

(2) Any player who attends another public school other than where they live using a voucher, pays tuition or is allowed to attend because a parent works for the Board of Education has a choice to play based on their residency or based on the school they attend.

(D) No coach, baseball chairman or member of a team's baseball staff shall solicit or in any manner attempt to entice players from a team other than their own to play outside baseball games for a team other than the team a player is currently registered with. Permission may be granted by the League Chairman on a case-by-case basis. Violation of this rule shall be suspension and/or discipline as determined by the Department Baseball Committee.

(E) Any resident of New Jersey, Pennsylvania or Delaware must play Legion Baseball for the state in which they reside unless both State Baseball Chairman grant permission.

(F) County Baseball Chairmen and League Presidents who directly supervise leagues may impose policies more restrictive than State Rules if in the best interest of their local program.

RULE #4 - PROTEST

(A) All protests of player eligibility and team eligibility must be specific with proof in writing, within forty-eight (48) hours after the game. If a player is found ineligible, he shall be disqualified immediately. No protest may be made in any county beyond the last game played by his team. If the protest is upheld, all games in which the disqualified player participated shall be forfeited.

(B) All protests and interpretations of the Department and National rules shall be handled in this manner:

(1) Protests and interpretations must be submitted to the County Chairman for a decision.

(2) County Chairman may request that the District Coordinator and/ or District Vice Chairman conduct a hearing and render a decision on any manner. An answer must be given within seventy-two (72) hours in writing. After following the organizational structure, an appeal of such a decision may be made to the Department Committee. . (Organizational Structure: After League Chairman to District Vice Chairman and District Coordinator. After District Vice Chairman and District Coordinator to State Chairman/Committee).

(C) No manager, coach, player, player's agent, player's parent, or legal representative shall be permitted to bypass the County Chairman, the District Vice Chairman, or Department Chairman and appeal directly to National Headquarters on the matter of protest or interpretation of rules. All appeals must proceed up the organization structure of the State Baseball Committee District Vice Chairman to State Chairman / Committee). Violation of this rule shall result in sanctions, including but not limited to suspension of the violator and/or violators, for the remainder of the season and playoffs.

(1) The required process for a protest above the League Chairman is to document the issue and submit it to the District Coordinator and the District Vice Chairman. They will review, consult with appropriate State Committee members, the State Rules Interrupter and render a decision.

RULE #5 - TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION

(A) National Registration Deadline – All Teams should have completed (and submitted) their team and player registration information on the National American Legion Baseball Web Site prior to playing their first league game or by June 15th – whatever comes first. Leagues are encouraged to include this within their league rules and insure compliance. Leagues must insure that early season, regularly scheduled league games not be an extension of tryouts.

NOTE: It is recommended that each team turn all player forms to their League Chairman before they play their first league game. This includes: Copies of Roster of Players, Form #2's, Player Transfer Form #76's, and Team Declaration Form #77's. Original Form #2's should be retained by the Team Manager.

(B) March 31st is the date for establishing legal residence and attendance in school.

(C) All Senior Teams must use the National Transfer Form #76 when a player transfers from one team to another.

(D) New Team forming and entering County League - Each League Chairman has the authority to make judgments that are in the best interest of American Legion Baseball and the quality of play within its league. This includes not allowing entry of a new team or a change of drawing schools if in his opinion, it will damage an existing team or teams, or lower the level of play within the league. The League Chairman should discuss the situation with the District Vice Chairman, the State Committee and his County Commander prior to making such a judgment and ruling.

(E) Requests for Base School changes need to be submitted to the State Baseball Chairman by April 1st. The League Chairman, the District Vice Chairman and the State Baseball Chairman must approve requests for Base School changes. Requests for Base School changes must go to the League Chairman and the District Vice Chairman prior to being sent to the State Baseball Chairman. Unless unusual circumstances occur, teams must maintain their base school for a minimum of 3 years. Changing a base school and not following the above process will result in the team being declared ineligible for the State Tournament.

(F) There should be only one team from a base school. Exceptions to this rule require a waiver from the Department Baseball Committee.

(G) In New Jersey the official school enrollment figures shall be those published by the N.J.S.I.A.A. for the current year.

(H) If a team from a league that no longer exist request entry into another league, they must abide by all the rules of that league and must request entry no later than end of February. Leagues may waiver that deadline if they have not finalized their league schedule.

RULE #6 - SPONSORSHIP

(A) In New Jersey the following methods of sponsorship are permissible:

- (1) Post entirely sponsoring a team or teams.
- (2) A Post and an outside individual or concern co-sponsoring a team or teams.
- (3) An individual or an outside concern sponsoring a team or teams.

NOTE: In all the above, all the rules as set forth by The American Legion will be strictly adhered to.

(B) All Teams are strongly encouraged to insure that their Sponsor is incorporated.

RULE #7 – TOURNAMENT

- (A) District Tournament – Any protests regarding a player’s eligibility must be submitted by 9:00 AM the day the District Tournament starts.
- (B) Each Senior League "must" have a League Champion by 9:00 PM Thursday, **July 14th** in order to advance to the Department Tournament. The teams participating in the District Tournament must be communicated by each League Chairman to Department Chairman, or the Chairman’s designate, no later than 9:00 PM Thursday, **July 14th**. The teams participating in the State Tournament must be represented in the Friday, **July 15th** Pre-Tournament Meeting.
- The dates of the Junior Tournaments and the Junior Pre-Tournament meeting will be announced by the State Chairman. The dates by which each Junior League “must” have a League Champion will be announced by the State Chairman.
- (C) All Senior, District Tournaments will start on Saturday, **July 16th**. There will be no exceptions to this rule. The District Tournaments will be completed no later than Thursday, **July 21st**. If necessary because of weather and delays, determination of who advances to the State Finals will be decided on criteria agreed to prior to the start of the tournament. The dates of any planned Junior Regional Tournament will be announced by the State Chairman.
- (D) The State Finals will start on Saturday, **July 23th** and will be completed on Thursday, **July 28th**, with a rain date of Friday, **July 29th**. Teams reaching the finals must supply the Dept. Chairman with four 5”x7” glossy print pictures. Pitchers must not have more than three (3) rows of individuals. Failure to supply the pictures will result in disqualification from State Tournament. Digital Representation may also be supplied – Refer to National Rules.
- (E) District Coordinators, District Vice Chairmans, with the Department Chairman, shall be the Field Selection Committee and must approve fields for the Districts and State Finals.
- (F) If a State Official or Representative is assigned by the Department Baseball Chairman to a tournament site and he is affiliated with a team that qualified for the State Tournament as a Manager or Coach, his team will play at the location he is assigned.
- (G) All necessary expenses of the competing teams shall be borne by the posts sponsoring teams.
- (H) Each League shall be entitled to a minimum of one representative in the Department Tournament. The Department Baseball Committee shall determine the number of teams from each league participating in State District Tournaments by June 15.
- (I) All teams (Senior and Jr 17&U) playing American Legion Baseball in New Jersey will remit to their respective County Chairman a \$100 fee. This fee will be paid to the State Baseball Committee and will covers the baseball scholarships and other expenses This payment must be paid to the state by June 15 and mail to the following address:
- The American Legion
Department of New Jersey
135 West Hanover Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08618
- Check should be made payable to: American Legion Dept. of New Jersey.
In the memo area on the check write: “Baseball” and Age Division (19’s, 17’s 15’s or 14’s).
- Since there will not be a 15 & Under Tournament, 15 & Under teams will pay a \$5 fee.
- (J) Any team or County Baseball Chairman having a particular problem regarding player's eligibility, territorial boundary lines, or other problems not covered by either the National or State Rules, is required to communicate with their respective District Coordinators first then to District Vice Chairman prior to May 15th. The District Vice Chairman will consult with the State Chairman as required.

(K) Tournament Directors shall decide whether a game will be cancelled or postponed for any reason. Their decision shall be final. After a game has started, umpires must confer with the Directors before a game can be called for any reason.

(L) In New Jersey a team must participate in a league of four (4) teams or more and compete in a minimum of twelve (12) games against any Registered New Jersey American Legion Team to be eligible for Department Tournament play.

(M) Any player, or person accompanying a team participating in a State Tournament that is ejected from the game or dugout by an umpire must leave the park where tournament games are being played and shall be suspended for the next scheduled game. Tournament director may apply longer penalties at his discretion. Failure to comply by the individual may result in forfeiture of game. Any coach or manager ejected from a State Tournament game shall be suspended 1 Game or longer at the discretion of the Tournament Site Director. The Tournament Site Director, in consultation with the Baseball Chairman, may modify the suspension.

(N) Any team that forfeits a game in the Department Tournament will be subject to a 1-year suspension upon review by the Department Baseball Committee.

(O) All teams participating in New Jersey American Legion Baseball must play in an existing County League where their base school is located. The Department Baseball Committee may grant a waiver to this provision for travel purposes and/or other unusual circumstances.

(P) A team cannot participate in the State Tournament unless it has a minimum of 12 active players and 2 rostered Coaches on their roster. At least 12 active players and 2 Coaches must be present and available to participate at the beginning of each game or they will forfeit out of the tournament and possibly suspended next year.

A Player who was ejected in a prior game will count in totaling the required 12 players. The Site Director, after consulting with the State Chairman/Tournament Director can exercise common sense judgment where unusual circumstances have occurred and players may be late because of major traffic issues or other circumstances. A team is allowed to bring up a maximum of 3 players from its 17 & Under Junior team only if they are short players and they will fall under the 12 player requirements for the tournament. Those 3 players must appear on their 17 & Under Junior roster.

(Q) In the event of delays due to bad weather, the State Baseball Chairman has the ability to:

- (1) Change the number of required innings from 9 to 7.
- (2) Go to single elimination.
- (3) Use criteria communicated at the Pre-Tournament meeting.

Note: This can be done on a District Site or State Wide basis.

(R) At District Tournaments and at the State Finals, the umpires will inspect all bats and helmets before the 1st game. If an umpire deems a bat or helmet unsafe, it will be held by the Tournament Director and returned to the team after they are eliminated from the tournament or the tournament is completed. The umpire will also inspect any weighted bats. ANY homemade weighted bat will not be allowed and will be held by the Tournament Director and will be returned to the team after they are eliminated from the tournament or the tournament is completed.

(S) All Teams who participate in the State Tournament, both Districts and Finals, will carry with them at all State Tournament games: a Team Roster, all Form #2's, the original birth certificates (or Drivers Licenses or Passports), all required #76 Forms and all required #77 Forms.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

- (A) State Meetings will be open to all State Baseball Officials, Senior and Junior League Officials, and invited Guests.
- (B) Only American Legion members may vote during any official Baseball meeting, and only Legion members may have check writing or financial authority. The State Baseball Chairman will cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

GENERAL FINANCIAL POLICIES

- (A) The State Baseball Chairman or Authorized State Baseball Committee Official will approve all purchases.
- (B) All requests for reimbursements and payments will be in writing and the bill, invoice or receipt will be provided with the written request.
- (C) The State Committee will pay up to \$2,500 to each organization that hosts a District Tournament pending the submission of a finance report for their tournament and expense receipts.
- (D) NJ American Legion Baseball will pay umpire fees for State Finals.
- (E) The Senior State Champions will be given an expense allowance of \$750.
- (F) The NJ American Legion Headquarters in Trenton must approve any State Baseball Official traveling to Indianapolis for the convention. These individuals will be reimbursed for their airline ticket or car mileage and paid a per diem amount for daily expenses. The Per Diem amount will be determined by the Department Headquarters in Trenton.
- (G) Financial and Cash controls will be implemented at the Districts and State Finals.
- (H) The Tournament Committee will provide the Finance Committee an estimate of the revenues and expenses.
- (I) All individuals or organizations must submit detailed expense reports, with appropriate receipts, for any and all amounts \$600 and greater (IRS regulations).
- (J) The Host of the District Tournament shall enter a team in that Tournament.

APPENDIX

In State Tournament games, where a game has not been played to completion in accordance with professional Baseball Rules, and where a game is called by the Umpire-in-Chief because of darkness or rain, before the full nine innings have been concluded, the game shall be suspended with the remainder of the game played from where it was called to its conclusion. Where a game has been suspended for either darkness or rain, game must be completed, but the next regularly scheduled game may be played first. This decision rests with the Tournament Officials.

No county shall impose individual rules for any new team entered into their program, nor shall any new team be subject to any undue financial burden that is not imposed on the rest of the league.

In New Jersey a person must be a member of The American Legion to direct, administer, guide or enforce discipline or otherwise be the sole Director of a County American Legion Baseball League. The baseball program is a part of The American Legion and therefore must be under the direct supervision of a person or persons who are members of the parent organization, The American Legion.

AWARDS

- (A) The Department will present awards to the State Championship Team and the State Runner Up Team.
- (B) Scholarships: \$ 4,000 David C. Goodwin Memorial Award
 \$ 4,000 Ernest Zardetto Memorial Award