

# AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL



## *2015 Tournament Rules and Policies*

### INTRODUCTION

Since 1925, The American Legion has sponsored youth baseball as a national program for the primary purpose of teaching good sportsmanship (win or lose), teamwork and good citizenship, while providing supervised recreation. Listed on the next several pages are various tournament rules and policies of The American Legion. These policies and rules are reviewed and approved annually by the National Americanism Commission. The Americanism Commission is a group of American Legion volunteers from many different Departments (states) who give of their time and service to supervise the youth programs of The American Legion.

All National tournaments will be played under the policies and rules established by the National Americanism Commission. All disputes and questions shall be referred to the on-site National Tournament Director appointed by the National Commander. Any situations not specifically covered by National rules or the tournament regulations will be referred to the National Americanism Division, whose decision shall be final.

It is important that the coaching staff read and understand these instructions, tournament rules and policies. There are many policies which are designed to provide for the safety of the players and also provide a level playing field.

### NATIONAL TOURNAMENT CERTIFICATION

The Team Manager and the Department Chairman are responsible for ensuring the following items are sent via email ([baseball@legion.org](mailto:baseball@legion.org)) to the national office, immediately following the Department Tournament, and the Team Manager shall **hand carry** to the Regional and World Series Tournament Directors.

**NOTE: Failure to deliver the proper paperwork can disqualify a player and/or the team from competing in the regional tournament.**

The Team Managers **will hand carry** and personally deliver to the onsite National Tournament Director the following forms:

1. Original or State Certified Birth Certificates or
  - a. driver's license that complies with the new Federal Real ID Law; **or**
  - b. a military ID, dependent ID, a US passport, **or**
  - c. An American Legion Baseball ID card produced by the Department Headquarters.
2. Signed copies of each Player's Emergency Information (**Form #2**).

**NOTE:** The team roster will be downloaded from the national baseball website [www.baseball.legion.org](http://www.baseball.legion.org) by local chairman. Department Chairman shall verify that the team

manager and coaches have successfully passed the mandated background screening requirements.

It is critical that the housing form reach the local chairman immediately following the completion of your department tournament. Forms are to be completed via the national baseball website: [www.baseball.legion.org](http://www.baseball.legion.org) and must be emailed to [baseball@legion.org](mailto:baseball@legion.org). The National Office will then forward forms to regional tournament site.

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY PROTESTS

Eligibility protests of players involved in national tournaments must be in writing and provide proof of ineligibility. They must be filed with the National Tournament Director at each tournament site (Department, Regional, and World Series) no later than 9:00 a.m. local time on the first day of the tournament involved, except when there is a discovery of fraud. When fraud is discovered, the eligibility protest and a written description of the alleged fraud must be filed immediately. (National Rule 9.D)

All other protests concerning game situation shall be filed as specified in the Official Baseball Rules and National Rule #1.

## GAME PROTESTS

Each tournament shall have a Tournament Rules and Protest Committee with at least three members. The Committee shall consist of the Tournament Director and two individuals, not affiliated with any team on the field. These members shall be appointed by the Tournament Director, who will chair the Committee. Protests will be handled and settled by the Tournament Rules and Protest Committee at the time they are lodged.

## TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Teams competing in ALB (senior program) national tournaments must have 12 players available for participation. If a Senior Team has less than the mandatory 12 players, that team, with approval from the Department Baseball Chairman, is permitted to transfer up to three players from its affiliated (registered) junior legion team. Teams with less than 12 players will forfeit their right to participate and the National Appeals Board, in consultation with the Department Baseball Chairman, shall determine a suitable replacement team. This rule shall not apply to teams hosting a national Regional tournament.
2. All Americanism Commission supervised tournaments will be eight team double elimination tournaments.
3. Regional competition will include the host team and seven (7) teams determined by state playoffs. The World Series shall consist of the eight regional championship teams.
4. A daily coin-flip is conducted to determine home team for all games. The third base dugout is designated as the home team dugout; however, if there is a host team in the tournament, the host team shall have the right to use their usual dugout regardless if they are home or visitors for that game.

- a. Any team manager late for the daily coaches meeting shall be declared the visiting team.
5. No team shall be required to play more than two games in one day.
6. Playing days may begin after 8:00 a.m. local time.
7. No tournament game shall start after 11:00 p.m. local time.
8. All State, Regional and World Series games are nine (9) innings, unless extreme weather conditions dictate the modification of this rule or the game has been shortened by applying the “mercy rule”. (10 run rule after 7 innings).
9. All games shall be played in accordance with National Rule 1 of the American Legion Baseball Rulebook.
10. Official Baseball Rules - Designated Hitter (DH) rule (pitcher only) will be used in tournament play as outlined in the Official Rules of Baseball.
11. The American Legion does **NOT** permit any type of re-entry rule during tournament play.
12. The American Legion does **NOT** permit courtesy runners during tournament play.
13. Suspended games will be completed from the point of suspension.
  - a. When a game is suspended and completed the following day, the pitcher will be charged for innings pitched on the first day. Any innings pitched by that pitcher on the next day will be charged to the second day. One appearance will be charged for each appearance.
  - b. A suspended game completed on a second day will not count toward the two games in one-day rule. Teams that complete a suspended game can still play an additional two (2) full games.
14. In the case of rain, games may be moved to other locations at the discretion of the Tournament Director on site. **Note:** American Legion tournaments have a time limitations, and Tournament Directors must make every effort to complete tournaments on time. The Tournament Director has additional instructions for rain delayed tournaments.
15. The pitching rule will be observed throughout all levels of tournament play (Department, Regional, and World Series). The winning team traveling to the next level of play must comply with the 3-day pitching rule.
16. Teams will dress in the hotel or at home. No team shall dress at the ballpark unless dressing rooms are provided.
17. Any player or coach ejected from a game must leave the park and may not return while the game is in progress. The Tournament Director and umpire shall file an ejection report to the National Office.
18. Players removed from a game (other than ejection by an umpire) may be used as a base coach.
19. The Tournament Director must approve all batboys or batgirls.

20. At Regional and World Series competition, the National Headquarters appoints the official scorekeeper. **No team is permitted to have a scorekeeper in the dugout unless that person is in uniform and listed on the National Team Roster.**
  - a. The only non-uniformed personnel permitted in the dugouts are certified medical trainers or a Legionnaire stationed in the dugout at the direction of the tournament director. Tournament Directors may, at their discretion, require the medical trainer provide a copy of their certification.
21. All coaches must be listed on the National form. Team managers have the ability to add or delete up to five coaches. All players and coaches must be in a like uniform in order to go onto the field or sit in the dugout.
22. Once American Legion Baseball national tournaments begin (State Tournament through World Series play) no player can participate in another amateur baseball event. National Rule 6.D.

### PITCHING RULES

1. No Player may pitch more than 12 innings during any consecutive three (3) day period.
2. No player may make more than four (4) appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three (3) day period.
  - a. Should a double or triple play cause a pitcher to exceed the permitted 12 innings in three consecutive days: that action in and of itself shall not be construed as a violation of this rule. The official scorekeeper, for the purpose of this rule violation, must record 12 and 1/3 innings.
3. Any pitcher may be removed from the pitching position and remain in the game at another position.
  - a. If this player returns as a pitcher in the same game, he will be charged with another appearance.

Under Official Baseball Rules, a pitcher is automatically removed AS A PITCHER when a coach makes a second trip to the mound in the same inning. The player may remain in the game; however, that player cannot return as a pitcher in that game. Penalty for violating this rule by reinserting a pitcher: Forfeiture of the game if a protest is filed with the umpire in chief before the last out of the game.

4. 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."
  - a. The 12-second timing starts when the pitcher is in possession of the ball and the batter is in the box, alert to the pitcher. The timing stops when the pitcher releases the ball.
  - b. The intent of this rule is to avoid unnecessary delays. The umpire shall insist that the catcher return the ball promptly to the pitcher, and that the pitcher take his position on the

rubber promptly. Obvious delay by the pitcher should instantly be penalized by the umpire. (Official Rule 8.04)

5. Pitching records for a suspended game.
  - a. When a game is suspended on one day and completed the following day, the pitcher will be charged for innings pitched on the first day. Any innings pitched by that pitcher on the next day will be charged to the second day. One appearance will be charged for each appearance.
  - b. A suspended game completed on a second day will not count toward two games in “one-day rule” – these teams can still play an additional two (2) full games.

### **NATIONAL TOURNAMENT - ON FIELD CONDUCT**

The umpires are instructed to monitor, promote and enforce the following:

1. Only one on-deck batter will be out of the dugout. Other personnel are to remain in the dugout, bullpen or coaches’ box. Umpires are also instructed to keep players off the dirt around home plate after a home run.
2. Except for lengthy delays, the pitcher will be limited to five (5) warm-up throws between innings. (Official Baseball Rules)
3. When warming up a pitcher in the bullpen, the catcher must wear a mask and if needed, a third player must protect the bullpen from line drives and foul balls.
4. Shirt-tails are to be tucked in.
5. Do not “charge” an umpire.
6. List the last names and uniform numbers of all players, including non-starters, on the line-up cards.
7. The umpires are expected to keep the games moving at all times, so expect verbal encouragement from them.
8. Any player, coach, manager or party accompanying a team may be ejected for the remainder of the game from the time of the rule infraction if they:
  - a. Use profane language in any manner.
  - b. Make any unnecessary gestures in protesting an umpire’s decision. (Only the team manager or coach may ask for a clarification of a rule, but never argue.)
  - c. Throw bats or any other equipment.
  - d. Make unnecessary gestures to fans, opposing players or coaches.

If an umpire ejects a player or a coach from the game, the ejected person shall be suspended for the remainder of the tournament, unless reinstated by the Tournament Director.

## NATIONAL TOURNAMENT - CONDUCT OFF THE FIELD

1. All persons traveling with an American Legion Baseball team are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will, at all times, reflect credit on their community, state and the American Legion Baseball program.
  - a. Any player, manager or team official, whose conduct may be considered detrimental or injurious to others, or the program, may be suspended for the remainder of the tournament and returned home by means of the first available transportation. A parent, coach or other team official will escort offending players home. The Department Baseball Chairman will be notified of such action.
  - b. If a team's conduct creates an embarrassment to The American Legion, the Tournament Director has final authority to suspend the team and or the Team Manager for two or more games.
2. Team managers and coaches are responsible for player conduct at all times. Pushing, shoving or unnecessary playfulness in hotels, restaurants and other public areas will not be tolerated.
3. Teams are required to place a **security deposit of \$200.00** with the hotel. (A check, cash, or credit card is necessary.)
  - a. Any damaged or unclean rooms may cause their deposit to be forfeited. Hotel rooms are inspected prior to a team's arrival. Rooms are checked for damages and cleanliness prior to the team's departure. Discrepancies will be brought to the attention of the team manager.
4. Curfew will be 12:00 midnight, unless the team is involved in a late game, in which case the team will have two (2) hours after the completion of their game. Any player missing curfew may be sent home on the next available transportation at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Players must be accounted for at all times. Any player not with the team **OR** any player that must leave the immediate area must obtain prior permission from the Tournament Director. **(Teams must stay together and be under a coach's supervision.)** The team will travel as a group. A release/waiver form must be completed by the Tournament Director if a player wishes to depart the tournament site early or separate from the team.

## PERSONAL APPEARANCE

1. While in uniform, team members are expected to keep as neat as possible. Shirts will be buttoned, zipped and tucked in at waistline.
2. At the team orientation, each certified player and two coaches will be provided a souvenir shirt. (Extra coaches, batboys/batgirls may purchase an extra shirt for from the tournament director if available).
3. Dress Code: Tournament Hosts often host a banquet or picnic for players and coaches the first evening prior to tournament play. The banquet or pre-tournament picnic is the host's option. The dress code is typically casual, however, teams are required to have dress or golf shorts of an appropriate length and clean athletic shoes. Most teams will be instructed to wear their baseball jersey to the pre-tournament social or banquet.

4. While in street clothes, players are encouraged to dress in a manner that would reflect credit upon their team, sponsor, and their community and the American Legion Baseball program.

### TEAM TRAVEL

The National Headquarters will arrange transportation for teams traveling to and from the Regional and World Series National Tournaments.

- a. The local tournament host is required to provide local transportation at the tournament. Questions concerning local transportation need to be directed to the local host committee.

**NOTE:** Several teams in the South, Midwest, Southern and Western United States will be required to fly to a regional tournament site by commercial airline service. **Due to the Federal Aviation Administration security alert**, team members are required to show and present a PHOTO ID at check in.

The American Legion annually purchases 600 airline tickets to fly players and coaches to Regional and World Series Tournaments. These airline tickets are nonrefundable and expensive. Tickets are purchased for those players from the housing list submitted following the completion of the state tournament. Unfortunately, The American Legion National Headquarters has purchased airline tickets for players who sometimes choose not to attend the tournament. **The American Legion will no longer absorb this cost. The team will be responsible to reimburse The American Legion for any unused ticket(s).**

### AMERICAN LEGION FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The American Legion is the only youth program that provides for team transportation, meals, housing and several other tournament expenses at the national Regional and World Series. Here is a partial list of expenses which are paid for by dues collected by our members and a tournament fee paid by the local hosting committee:

Meals – 1,280 players @ \$18 per day for eight sites = \$204,800.

Motel Rooms for the week - 256 rms @ 8 sites = \$164,000.

Scorekeepers & Umpires – fees, meals, motel room and transportation = \$63,000.

Live scoring via GameTracker = \$2,000.

Airline tickets – 11 teams = \$140,000.

Bus Transportation – 40 teams = \$300,000

Cost to transport, feed, house teams at the 2011 World Series = \$250,000

Trophies and banners for each tournament site = \$15,000

Baggage fees for teams flying to the sites = \$21,000.00

Baseballs for each regional tournament and World Series site = \$12,000

In total The American Legion will spend over \$1 million dollars hosting these tournaments and we want to share this information with you and the parents. No other youth baseball organization provides for transportation on to our national regional tournaments. Many of these youth organizations require the teams to pay all costs. Several of the other youth baseball programs will charge a large fee for your team to participate in their tournaments.

1. The National Americanism Commission will arrange and be financially responsible for the certified players **listed on the National Team Roster** (not to exceed eighteen {18} players and two {2} adults traveling to and from national Regional and World Series tournaments).
  - a. National Headquarters will be responsible for housing and meals while at the national tournaments (Regional and World Series).
  - b. No substitutions of coaches are allowed, unless authorized by the National Office. Any substitute players, batboys/batgirls, official scorekeepers, or extra coaches traveling, collecting meal monies or being housed at American Legion expense will disqualify your team from further competition.
  - c. Teams are responsible for arranging additional accommodations, travel, and banquet tickets for the extra coaches, trainers, equipment managers, team scorers, batboys or batgirls, etc.
2. **Team Travel – 50 mile policy:**
  - a. Participating teams that live **within 50 miles** of the Regional or World Series Tournament site will not be authorized housing and will be required to provide their own transportation.
  - b. The Tournament Director shall reimburse any team located less than 50 miles from site at \$1.00 per mile, round trip mileage.
  - c. Participating teams that are required to fly to a national tournament must provide their own transportation to the airport.
  - d. Any team **within a 50-mile** radius of the airport shall provide their own transportation to and from the airport and the team will not be reimbursed for mileage.
  - e. Any team outside of a 50-mile radius of the airport shall provide their own transportation. However, the Tournament Director shall reimburse the team for mileage at \$1.00 per mile for a single round trip.

**IMPORANT NOTE:** The American Legion will make every effort to return teams to the nearest major airport. HOWEVER, because many flights are often full it then becomes necessary to fly teams home to another nearby airport. Again, teams must make their own travel arrangements home from the airport

3. **Team Travel:** The National Office shall determine the nearest airport for departure. Because of the high cost of airline tickets flying from small regional airports, The National Office shall determine the most economical airport for the transportation of teams to and from a national tournament.
  - a. The National Office may utilize commercial buses for transportation to the national tournament sites (Regional and World Series). Any team that wishes to use their own team bus shall be reimbursed at \$3.00 per mile for a single round trip, if authorized by the National Office.
  - b. Each year, a few players must report directly to college from a national tournament. It is the parent's or legal guardian's responsibility to make transportation arrangements to the college.
  - c. National Headquarters is **NOT** responsible for team meals while traveling to or from the national tournament site.

4. Meal allowances, while at a national tournament will be:

Breakfast.....\$6.00  
 Lunch.....\$6.00  
 Dinner.....\$6.00

5. Our liability insurance will not permit us to transport unauthorized team personnel. Only personnel listed on the National Team Roster, or those who have been approved by the National Headquarters, are permitted to be transported to the tournament site. Parents, batboys or batgirls, local Legion Officers, sponsors, scorekeepers, and wives etc., must make their own travel, housing and meal arrangements. National Headquarters will not be financially obligated for any unauthorized personnel.
6. The American Legion is not responsible for miscellaneous hotel charges such as movies, phone calls, meals, roll-a-way beds, etc. These charges will be the responsibility of the team.

### **The American Legion's Airline Luggage Reimbursement Policy**

Most airlines charge for luggage and all airlines have a surcharge for overweight luggage.

**Airlines continue to strictly enforce weight limits on each bag.** It was (and still is) the participant's responsibility to ensure that the luggage checked was within prescribed weight limits. The participant is responsible for paying any fee levied for their overweight bags. **Please be sure to get a receipt and provide that receipt to the tournament director at your regional site.**

The American Legion's policy for checked luggage and carry-on bags will be as follows: Team members are allowed to check up to TWO BAGS per coach (two coaches only) and player listed on national roster. Example: 13 players and 2 coaches – 30 pieces of luggage; 18 players and 2 coaches – 40 pieces of luggage). **The team is financially responsible for equipment bags and overweight items.**

**Coaches and players will be reimbursed *at the tournament site by the tournament director.*** Receipt must be provided for all inbound luggage claims.

It is the program participant's responsibility to ascertain what is allowed as a carry on and to pack accordingly. Baseball bats are never permitted as carry on luggage.

Questions: Call National Office 317-630-1213 or email [baseball@legion.org](mailto:baseball@legion.org)