



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL







PURPOSE

To inculcate in youth a better understanding of the American way of life and to promote the principles of 100 percent Americanism.

To instill in the nation's youth a sincere desire to develop within themselves feelings of citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty and team spirit.

To aid in the improvement and development of the physical fitness of our country's youth.

To build the nation's future through our youth.

CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

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 in victory

Keep a sound soul, a clean mind, and a healthy body

HISTORY



1925 The American Legion Department of South Dakota proposes "Legion Junior Baseball" as a nationwide program of service to U.S. youth.

1926 The first national tournament is played, with 16 states participating.

1928 The Executive Council of Baseball agrees to underwrite American Legion Baseball (ALB) up to \$50,000. Major League Baseball (MLB) continues to make a significant contribution to the program each year.

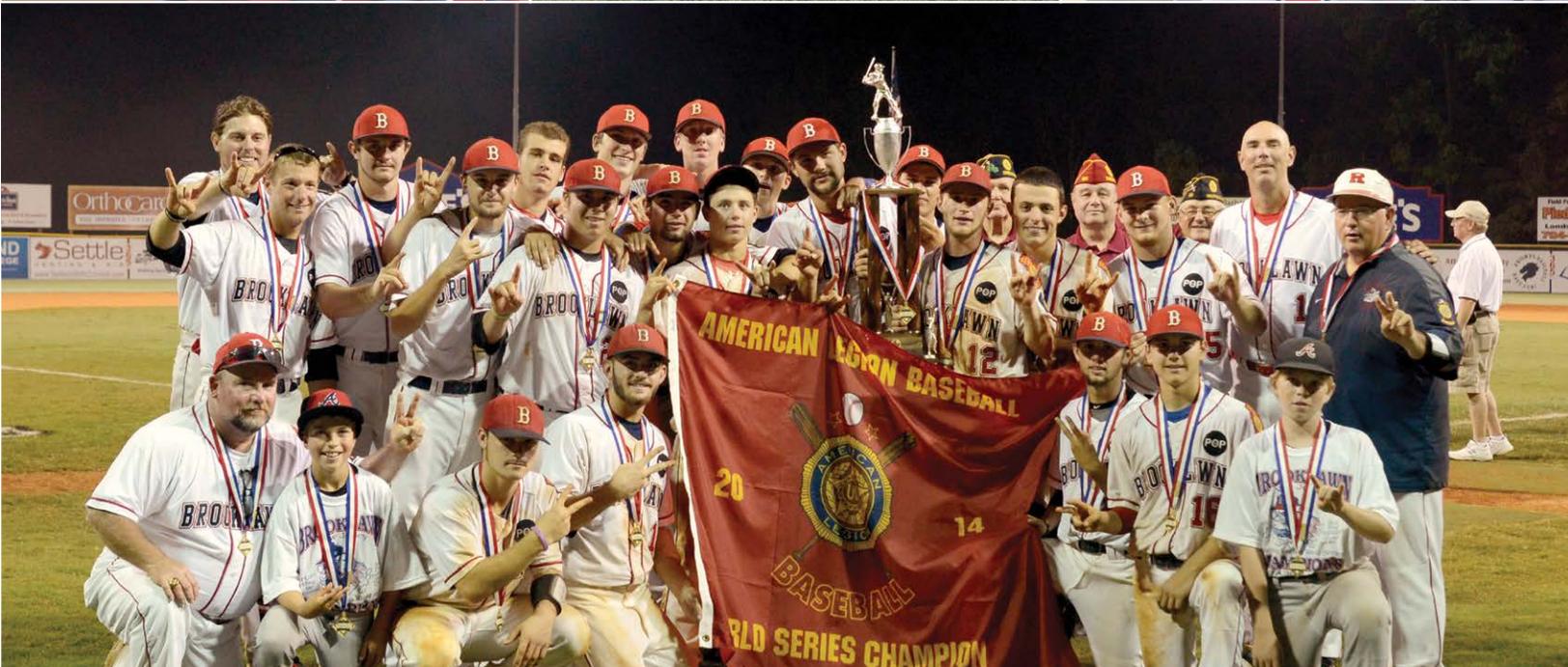
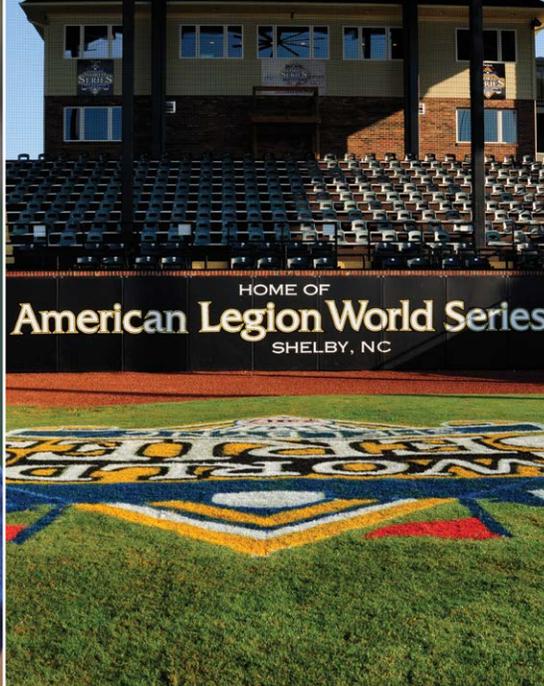
1938 The national tournament is broadcast to more than 3,000 radio stations, bringing the American Legion World Series (ALWS) to every part of the country.

1961 ALB is strengthened under program coordinator George W. Rulon, who holds the post until 1987. Upon his retirement, the American Legion Player of the Year award is renamed the George W. Rulon Player of the Year.

1970s The Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger RBI, Rawlings Big Stick and Bob Feller Pitching awards are established, based on players' statistics in the regional and ALWS tournaments.

1982 ALB adopts an eight-site, eight-team, double-elimination tournament format.

1986 The American Legion begins to annually award \$10,000 in scholarship money to eight deserving players. Today, the scholarship has grown to



\$25,000 awarded to 50 outstanding players, each receiving \$500 – which many states match for a total of \$1,000.

2010 Shelby, N.C., is named the permanent home of the ALWS, spending \$2.5 million to upgrade its stadium with new MLB lights, a high-definition video scoreboard, office complex and expanded seating.

2011 The ALWS breaks an all-time attendance record that stood for 75 years, with more than 86,000 fans

watching the five-day tournament. Total paid attendance has increased every year since, hitting 110,036 in 2014. That year's championship game had a paid attendance of nearly 8,000, a single-game record.

2012 Diamond Sports becomes the key sponsor of the American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team. Eight players receive a \$2,500 scholarship, and an overall top academic player is named team captain and awarded a \$5,000 scholarship.

2014 Brooklawn, N.J., Post 72 is the first team in 40 years to win back-to-back national championships since Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, Post 146 won two in a row in 1973 and 1974.



BENEFITS

- Sponsored by The American Legion, the nation's largest wartime veterans organization
- Only amateur baseball program that covers airfare, hotel and meal expenses while participating at regional and national tournaments
- Senior and junior programs for youth 13 to 19
- Annual scholarships for deserving players, including the Diamond All-Academic Team and individual state awards
- ALWS "Championship Tuesday" televised on ESPN U
- Honors the George W. Rulon Player of the Year through a special arrangement with the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y.
- Quality of play and players recognized by Major League Baseball
- ALWS championship team recognized at the World Series
- National member organization of USA Baseball
- U.S. Olympic Committee member

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Provides community youth with a positive and well-disciplined environment in which to play baseball
- Helps youth develop self-confidence and build self-esteem
- Promotes good sportsmanship, physical fitness and good citizenship

YOUTH PROTECTION

- Educates local volunteers on how to safeguard the protection of youth participants
- Teams required to conduct annual background checks on managers, coaches and other volunteer staff with regular access to the players
- Team managers, coaches and volunteer staff must successfully pass a background screening through Protect Youth Sports

SERVICE AND SUPPORT

- Free national rule books, including rules interpretation by email and telephone
- Full-time staff available to answer questions and concerns
- User-friendly website, www.legion.org/baseball, for news, online team registration and tournament listings



THE AMERICAN LEGION WORLD SERIES

In 2011, Keeter Stadium in Shelby, N.C., became the permanent home of the American Legion World Series. The city quickly began a \$2.5 million upgrade of the stadium and Veterans Field, anticipating crowds that have broken single-game and series attendance records every summer since.

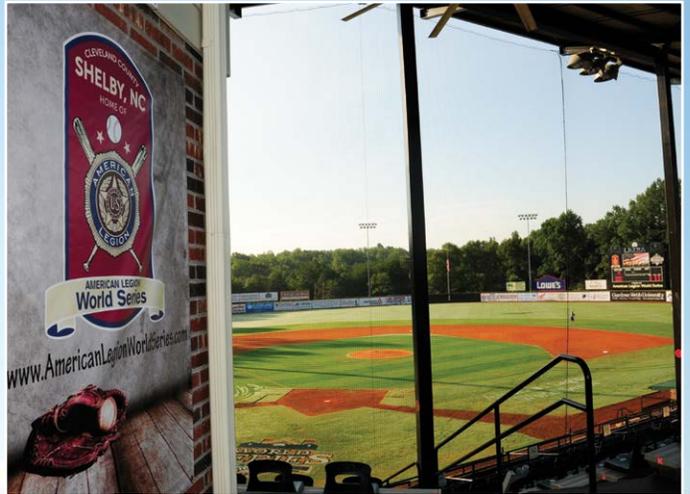
By the time teams get to Shelby for the American Legion World Series, most will have played about 50 games – and some closer to 70. But all typically will have won five games at the substate level, five games at the state level and five

games at the regional level. Once at Keeter Stadium, they must win five games to become the ALWS champion. Whatever their route to Shelby, all eight regional winners have proven they deserve a shot at the championship.

The semifinal and championship games are broadcast on ESPNU.

For details about Shelby and Keeter Stadium, a full World Series event schedule, ticket prices and more, go to www.americanlegionworldseries.com.





AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL REGIONS



NORTHWEST REGION
Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana,
Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

WESTERN REGION
Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada,
New Mexico, Utah, Texas

CENTRAL PLAINS REGION
Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota,
Nebraska, South Dakota

MID-SOUTH REGION
Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi,
Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee

GREAT LAKES REGION
Illinois, Indiana, Michigan,
Ohio, Wisconsin

MID-ATLANTIC REGION
Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey,
New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia

NORTHEAST REGION
Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine,
New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

SOUTHEAST REGION
Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky,
North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia

Find your department (state) baseball chairman online at www.legion.org/baseball/contacts.

For information on state championship tournaments, dates and more, go to www.legion.org/baseball/tournaments/state.

For information on regional tournaments, dates and more, go to www.legion.org/baseball/tournaments/regional.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

George W. Rulon Player of the Year

Through a special arrangement with the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, a player is selected each year as the George W. Rulon Player of the Year. Named for the longtime coordinator of the American Legion Baseball, the award recognizes integrity, mental attitude, cooperation, citizenship, sportsmanship, scholastic aptitude and general good conduct.

American Legion Baseball Slugger Trophy

Since 1945, the American Legion has presented a slugger trophy to the player with the highest batting average during national competition.

American Legion Baseball Big Stick Award

The Big Stick Award is given at the American Legion World Series to the player who rounds the most bases in regional and national competition.

Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger RBI Memorial Award

Named for Dr. Irvin L. Cowger, a former Department of Kansas adjutant and devoted baseball supporter, this award goes to the player with the most runs batted in during regional and national competition.

Bob Feller Pitching Award

Bob Feller was the first American Legion Baseball alumnus elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. The recipient is the player with the most strikeouts in regional and national competition.

James F. Daniel Jr. Memorial Sportsmanship Award

The James F. Daniel Jr. Memorial Sportsmanship Award is presented to a player who participates in the American Legion World Series and best embodies the principles of good sportsmanship.

Jack Williams Memorial Leadership Award

Jack Williams served as adjutant of the Department of North Dakota for 49 years before his death in 1967. Aware that proper adult leadership is an important component of success, Williams encouraged qualified men to work in the program. To honor Williams' memory, this award is presented to the manager and coach of the national championship team as outstanding representatives of adult leadership.

All-Academic Team

Team managers and head coaches of American Legion Baseball teams can nominate players for a scholarship award. Each department baseball committee selects an overall state winner, who receives a scholarship of \$500 or more.

Department scholarship winners are considered for the American Legion All-Academic Team, sponsored by Diamond Sports. The World Series Scholarship Committee selects a player from each of the eight regions to be part of the All-Academic Team, and each receives a \$2,500 scholarship. An overall top academic player is named the team captain and awarded a \$5,000 scholarship.

Download a scholarship application at www.legion.org/baseball/resources.

American Legion Graduate of the Year

Each year, The American Legion honors a former American Legion Baseball player who is currently playing in the major league for his character, leadership, playing abilities and community service. Individuals are recommended by their respective post.

For a complete list of all awards and winners, go to www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/tac_manual.pdf.

BE PART OF AN AWARD-WINNING TRADITION

Local American Legion post affiliation

- Find an American Legion post in your area using the Post Locator at www.legion.org
- Contact your local post to help affiliate and sponsor your team
- Outside sponsored teams can apply through the department (state) baseball committee

Player eligibility and registration

- Open to players 13 to 19
- Player eligibility and recruiting is covered in state and national rules
- Complete and submit a team application at www.baseball.legion.org

Department baseball committee

- Establishes rules and regulations for the department (state)
- Appoints a state chairman and other volunteers to serve on the committee
- Handles team registration, disputes and questions of eligibility



TESTIMONIALS

"American Legion Baseball was a huge stepping stone for me. I had some great teammates and great coaches. At the same time, I learned a lot about respect. When those guys came out to see you at the ballpark, you always knew that they sacrificed for us to go out and play hard."

– Luis Gonzalez, former Arizona Diamondbacks outfielder whose 2001 game-winning hit gave the team its first World Series championship. Gonzalez played for American Legion Post 248 in Tampa Bay, Fla.

"The choice between playing Legion ball and travel ball is easy. When you play travel ball, you are limited to certain places you can play. When you play Legion ball, you are playing with people who care about you. There are friends who you have played with and friends who you have played against. It's just more structured, and the competition, I feel, is a lot better. It was one of the best opportunities I've had."

– Braden Shipley, pitcher, selected by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the 2013 Major League Baseball draft. Shipley led Medford, Ore., Post 15 to the 2009 American Legion World Series.

"The way (Legion Baseball) prepared me was playing against better players. When I was a freshman, I would play against a guy who would be a No. 1 pick the next day. We played against better players and we played a lot more often It was the best competition going."

– Don "The Hit Man" Mattingly, manager for the Los Angeles Dodgers and former New York Yankees first baseman. Mattingly played for American Legion Funkhouser Post 8 in Evansville, Ind.

"To me, (American Legion Baseball) has a true champion. You don't have to pay \$2,000 to get in a tournament. You've actually got to win – you've got to win your league, your district, your state title, the regional and then the World Series. It's all done on the field. You earn it."

– John Barth, Brooklawn, N.J., Post 72 team manager. Brooklawn has won four American Legion World Series titles: 1991, 2001, 2013 and 2014.

"It's the purest form of baseball left. You're not coming to play for colleges. You're coming to play for your teammates and your coaches and that ultimate goal of winning a national championship."

– Matthew Parr, player for Brooklawn, N.J., Post 72, back-to-back ALWS champions in 2013 and 2014



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does my team need to do to participate in American Legion Baseball?

There are three steps to becoming a certified ALB team

- Complete and submit a team application online at www.baseball.legion.org.
- Purchase accident and liability insurance, and successfully complete background screenings for the team manager and coaches before your state's deadline.
- Submit your team's roster to your department baseball chairman for approval prior to the start of regular season play or the state's deadline.

What are the benefits of being part of ALB?

Besides affiliation with one of the nation's premier and longest-running amateur youth baseball program, ALB players learn citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty and team spirit through competitive baseball.

Are American Legion teams required to carry insurance?

All teams are required to carry both accident and liability insurance. Both are available through the online registration process.

Are 19-year-old players eligible to participate in ALB?

Yes. However, there are additional eligibility requirements for a returning "graduated student" player. According to the ALB Rule Book, players who graduated the previous year must play for the last senior team they played for. If a team should fail to form and/or exist, a player must play for the team nearest his parents' domicile. Players who graduated the previous year are not eligible for transfer, and their names must have appeared on a previously approved senior team roster.

How do I find a team in my area?

Contact your department (state) baseball chairman or find a team online at www.legion.org/baseball/teams.



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AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL APP



From your smartphone, look up scores, box scores, pairings and more for regional games and the American Legion World Series.

Use the free app to:

- Enjoy full coverage of tournaments in stories, photos and videos
- View and buy baseballs, hats, T-shirts and other merchandise.
- See what fans are posting on Twitter and Instagram during the tournaments.
- Access travel information and resources.
- Download the app for your mobile device at www.legion.org/mobileapps/baseball.

2015 Senior and Junior Baseball Accident and Liability Team Insurance

Officially sponsored and endorsed by American Legion

Underwritten by



SENTRY
INSURANCE
A MUTUAL COMPANY

\$100,000 BLANKET ACCIDENT PLUS \$25,000 ACCIDENTAL DEATH & DISMEMBERMENT

Who is covered? All registered players, coaches, managers, batpersons, Athletic Officers and Post Commanders while involved in activities associated with American Legion Baseball.

What is covered? Accidental injuries sustained during tryouts, practices, games, and tournaments approved by The American Legion that are supervised by the proper American Legion authority and while traveling directly to and from such activities.

What are the Benefits?*

- \$100,000 accident medical expense, no deductible
- \$10,000 limit on injury to sound natural teeth
- \$25,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment

What is not covered?*

- Dental treatment, except as indicated in the policy
- Treatment or services by certain medical providers
- Activities not authorized by the state baseball committee
- Replacement of eye glasses, contact lenses or hearing aids

* The above lists do not include all benefits or exclusions and are not intended to replace the provisions of the policy. See policy 680-162 (Reprint 13) for complete coverage details.

Term of Insurance: A team's insurance will become effective March 1, 2015, or any later date on which a completed baseball insurance application and credit card is processed by The American Legion at www.legion.org/baseball. The term of insurance for seasonal coverage will be extended to cover the 2015 Major League World Series, or will terminate as of the completion of the Team's season, when the individual insured is no longer a member of the team, or September 1, 2015, whichever is earlier. The term of insurance for year-round coverage will become effective March 1, 2015, or any later date on which a completed baseball insurance application and credit card is processed by The American Legion at www.legion.org/baseball, and will continue to March 1, 2016, providing that the number of off-season games does not exceed 50% of the regular season games. This is a single term policy for 2015.

**Premium: \$175.00 per Senior team for seasonal coverage
\$255.00 per Senior team for year-round coverage
\$145.00 per Junior team for seasonal coverage
\$210.00 per Junior team for year-round coverage**

See Policy 680-162 (Reprint 13) for complete details

Underwritten by



\$2,000,000 GENERAL LIABILITY COVERAGE

Who is covered? The team and its sponsors, managers, coaches and any other volunteer workers or auxiliaries while acting on behalf of the team. Field owners may be covered as additional insureds under the policy.

What is covered? The plan covers potential liability created by sponsorship of a baseball team arising out of:

1. The use of baseball fields and playing areas.
2. All activities necessary or incidental to the conduct of tryouts, practices, exhibitions schedules and post season games.
3. Consumption or use of food and other products.
4. Insured contractual agreements.
5. Year-round activities such as fund raising, meetings and awards banquets.

What is not covered? The plan does not cover:

1. Liability arising out of the use of any owned or non-owned motor vehicles.
2. Property of others in care, custody and control of insured.
3. Injury or death of an employee.
4. Activities such as tryouts, practice, exhibition or post season games conducted between the last day of The American Legion World Series and March 1, 2016, unless the accident coverage is in place during that period.

Term of Insurance: Will become effective on March 1, 2015 (or any later date on which a completed baseball insurance application and credit card is processed by The American Legion at www.legion.org/baseball) and continues to March 1, 2016. Once your coverage has begun, there will be no return of any premium. For your continuous on and off-field protection, it is important that your policy stay in effect from year to year.

Premium: \$135.00 per Senior team

Premium: \$95.00 per Junior team

(Refer to the policy for specific coverage and exclusions)

s.a. van dyk

APPLY FOR THE AMERICAN LEGION SENIOR AND JUNIOR BASEBALL ACCIDENT AND LIABILITY TEAM INSURANCE PLANS ONLINE AT WWW.LEGION.ORG/BASEBALL

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90 years of true American character.

The values of American Legion Baseball have helped shape American youth into leaders, big league players, and above all, men of character. Here's to 90 years of valuable American tradition.





AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

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 www.legion.org/baseball

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