

# **Kansas & National BASEBALL RULES & POLICIES**

**Effective Date 4/1/17**



**DEPARTMENT OF KANSAS**

[www.ksamlegion.org/baseball](http://www.ksamlegion.org/baseball)

**NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION**

[www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball)

**MAJOR LEAGUE RULES**

[mlb.mlb.com/official\\_rules](http://mlb.mlb.com/official_rules)

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

1314 SW Topeka Boulevard

Topeka, Kansas 66612-1886

785-232-9315

## **CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP**

The “Code of Sportsmanship” should be repeated by the competing teams before each game.

### **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.**

## **DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION**

Any team that represents themselves as an American Legion Baseball team comes under the jurisdiction of the Department Baseball Committee the moment they commit an intentional act to represent themselves as an American Legion Baseball team.

Any team who violates any rule or regulation set forth by the Kansas American Legion Baseball Committee shall be subject to the discipline of the Department Baseball Committee.

Kansas American Legion Baseball rules can be changed or amended only by action of the Department Baseball Committee in a regularly called meeting.

**The American Legion expects and requires all participants, players, coaches, umpires and team representatives to show proper respect to the flag and National Anthem of the United States at all times. If any said participant cannot or will not live up to this expectation, they will forfeit their opportunity to participate in Legion baseball permanently.**

# IMPORTANT DATES

## DEADLINES

- MARCH 31      Residency Requirements
- MAY 15          Team Registration (on-line), Purchase Insurance, Entry Fees Paid. (Background checks are required for all staff members allowed to interact & coach your team. These must be completed & approved prior to tournament play. 1 is required prior to submitting your team registration [on-line]).
- JUNE 1          No Team Registration allowed after this date.
- JUNE 15          Transfers & Team Certification. (Rosters are finalized & all Form 2's [Player Agreement with parents' signatures, birth certificate or drivers license]. Dual participation forms & transfer forms #76 must be completed & in Topeka for final certification.)
- JUNE 20          Zone Assignments and State Tourney Brackets will be published on-line ([www.ksamlegion.org/baseball](http://www.ksamlegion.org/baseball)) by State Executive Committee.
- JULY 15          Scholarship Applications to Topeka

## TOURNAMENT PLAY

(Posted on state website @ [ksamlegion.org/baseball](http://ksamlegion.org/baseball))

- 2nd Week of July      'A' Zone Tourneys
- 3rd Week of July      'A' State tourney, 'AA' & 'AAA' Zone Tourneys
- 4th Week of July      'A' Regional Tourney, 'AA' & 'AAA' State Tourneys
- 1st Week of August    'AA' & 'AAA' Regional Tourneys  
(Exact dates & locations available at [www.ksamlegion.org/baseball](http://www.ksamlegion.org/baseball))
- 2nd Week of August    'AAA' World Series, Shelby, NC on ESPN

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**KANSAS DEPARTMENT AMERICAN LEGION  
BASEBALL AGREEMENT**

1. That the Post and or outside sponsored team complies with all rules and regulations as set out in this handbook, directives, orders and any other rules and regulations adopted by the Committee.
2. That in case of a disagreement of any type arising, that the Post and/or outside sponsored team and all representatives thereof, agrees to be bound and to abide by the decision of the Committee and with further regard to any disagreement, that the decision of the Committee shall be binding on the team and representatives thereof, immediately upon the Committee making said decision.
3. That all matters relating to American Legion Baseball arising in Department of Kansas shall be referred to Committee for decision, unless the Committee shall specifically designate a representative or agent to decide upon particular matters.
4. Those appeals shall be made to the Committee, but no appeal shall lie from decisions of the Committee and no effort shall be made to embarrass, degrade, harass or ridicule the Committee or any members thereof.
5. That the Committee shall have the absolute right to suspend, bar, or disqualify any team, player, coach or any other person connected with the Department of Kansas American Legion Baseball Program for failure to abide by this Agreement or any of the rules, regulations, directives, orders, or instructions by the Committee.
6. That all parties hereto understand that this Agreement shall include all matters relating to American Legion Baseball in The Department of Kansas, and that to seek a decision on any matter in regards thereto outside of the Committee itself shall be in violation hereof.
7. That the Post agrees to the proceedings, terms and conditions in consideration of its being allowed entering a team in the American Legion Baseball Program.

# 2017

## AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULES

For more than 90 years, the Legion's National Americanism Commission has overseen the American Legion Baseball (ALB) program. This body is responsible for the playing rules, recruiting rules and all other aspects of the program. Department baseball committees ensure the rules are followed.

The commission's concerns of potential liability and safety issues remain a priority. Departments and leagues are reminded that the ALB insurance package provides coverage for all players who try out, practice or play in exhibition games; however, once the regular season has begun, only those players listed on the national electronic roster shall be covered. Additionally, ALB teams may have no more than 18 registered players after June 15 or the department closing date, whichever comes first.

One of the unique characteristics of American Legion Baseball, especially in national tournaments, is that both senior and junior Legion teams follow Official Baseball Rules with few modifications. Changes to the Official Baseball Rules may be made by the Americanism Commission and are noted in Rule 1 of ALB rules. These modifications are matters of safety, equipment and insurance; they are made with the welfare of the players in mind.

Both senior and junior teams shall follow these rules, with a few exceptions for Junior Legion Baseball. All national tournaments will follow rules established by the Americanism Commission.

## PLAYING REGULATIONS RULE 1

**A. Baseballs.** An American Legion Baseball authenticating logo is required on all baseballs used in regular and post-season competition. A current list of authentic products can be found online at [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org).

**B. Bat Rule.**

1. Wood bat. The bat must be a smooth, rounded stick not more than  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter at its thickest part nor more than 42 inches in length. An indentation in the end of the bat up to 1 inch in depth is permitted (cupped bats).
2. Non-wood bats. Metal, ceramic, composite or graphite bats may be used provided they do not exceed 36 inches in length and the maximum diameter is  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inches.
3. Any non-wood bat must have the BBCOR certification code marked on the barrel of the bat.
4. Any non-wood bat that does not display the approved certification mark or in the umpire's judgment has been altered shall be removed from the game, and the player and team manager shall be ejected.

**C. The Batter.** The batter shall take his position in the batter's box promptly when it is his time at bat.

1. The batter shall not leave his position in the batter's box after the pitcher comes to set position or starts his windup.
2. The batter shall keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the batter's time at bat, unless one of the following exceptions applies, in which case the batter may leave the batter's box but not the dirt area surrounding home plate.
  - a) The batter swings at a pitch;
  - b) The batter is forced out of the batter's box by a pitch;
  - c) A member of either team requests and is granted "Time";
  - d) A defensive player attempts a play on a runner at any base;
  - e) The batter feints a bunt;



- f) A wild pitch or passed ball occurs;
- g) The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound after receiving the ball;
- h) The catcher leaves the catcher's box to give defensive signals.

(Official Baseball Rule 6.)

**D. Blood Rule.** If a player suffers from a laceration or other injury where blood is visible, the game shall be stopped at the earliest possible time and the athlete treated immediately. If the injury requires extensive treatment, a substitute shall replace the injured player. (Umpires are directed to give a reasonable amount of time to allow all injured players to be treated.)

**E. Catcher's Equipment.** Catchers are required to wear a safety helmet, throat protector and protective cup, in addition to normal catcher's equipment;

- 1. All catcher's masks must have a built-in or attachable throat guard. Umpires and tournament officials shall halt the game until this rule is complied with.
- 2. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, a catcher must wear a mask. Any person who refuses to do so shall be ejected from the game.

**F. Coaches.** Only those players and coaches listed on the team's National (Electronic) Registration Form #1 are permitted on the coaching lines.

**G. Courtesy Runners.** During the regular season and post-season, Senior American Legion teams shall not use courtesy runners.

**H. Collisions.** The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid collisions whenever possible.

- 1. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the umpire shall judge:
  - a) Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (the runner could have reached the base without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the base was blocked), or

- b) Whether the runner was actually attempting to reach the base (plate) or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder.

**PENALTY** - If the runner a) could have avoided the collision and reached the base or b) attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out, even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

**Ruling 1** - If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the base (plate), the runner may make contact, slide into or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base or plate.

**Ruling 2** - If the collision by the runner was flagrant, the runner shall be declared out and ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead.

2. If the defensive player blocks the base (plate) or base line without the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a delayed dead ball shall be called.

**Ruling** - If the runner collides flagrantly, he shall be declared safe on the obstruction but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.

3. Collisions at home plate. A runner attempting to score may not deviate from his direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate), or otherwise initiate an avoidable collision. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a runner attempting to score initiates contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate) in such a manner, the umpire shall declare the runner out (regardless of whether the player covering home plate maintains possession of the ball). In such circumstances, the umpire shall call the ball dead, and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. If the runner slides into the plate in an appropriate manner, he shall not be adjudged to have violated Rule 1.H.

**I. Designated Hitter (DH) Rule.** Senior American Legion Baseball programs and all senior national tournaments shall use the American League designated hitter rule as published in Official Baseball Rules.

**J. Force-Play-Slide Rule.** The intent of the force-play-slide rule is to ensure the safety of all players. This is a safety as well as an interference rule. Whether the defense could have completed the double play has no bearing on the applicability of this rule. This rule pertains to a force-play situation at any base, regardless of the number of outs.

1. On any force play, the runner must slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases. It is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the base in the baseline extended.

**Exception:** A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the runner slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. Interference shall not be called.

2. Contact with a fielder is legal, and interference shall not be called if the runner makes a legal slide directly to the base and in the baseline extended.
3. Actions by a runner are illegal and interference shall be called if:
  - a) The runner slides or runs out of the base line in the direction of the fielder and alters the play of the fielder (with or without contact).
  - b) The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder.
  - c) The runner's raised leg makes contact higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position.
  - d) The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg.
  - e) The runner illegally slides toward or contacts the fielder even if the fielder makes no attempt to throw to complete a play.

PENALTY for a-e:

1. With less than two outs, the batter-runner, as well as the interfering runner, shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.
2. With two outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.
3. If the runner's slide or collision is flagrant, the runner shall be ejected from the game.

**K. First-Aid Kit.** Each team must have a first-aid kit in the dugout at each game.

**L. Games per day.** No team shall be required to play more than two games in one day. Playing days will begin at 8 a.m. local time.

**M. Helmets.** All players are required to wear a double-flapped, ear-protective helmet while batting, running the bases and on deck.

1. Bat boys or girls must wear a double-flapped, ear-protective helmet while on the field.
2. All batting helmets must have the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) seal of approval stamped on the helmet, and such seal must be visible on the outside of the helmet.
3. Base coaches are required to wear a standard batting helmet, with or without earflaps (safety rule: ejection for non-compliance after one warning). Batters are required to wear a standard batting helmet with earflaps.

### CLARIFICATION

Any helmet that has a crack, or inside padding that is worn or missing, cannot be used and must be removed from the game.

**N. Insurance.** Every American Legion Baseball team (both junior and senior) must purchase both group liability and accident insurance from The American Legion's agent of record (S.A. Van Dyk, Inc.). Coverage must be purchased on or before June 1. Violation of this rule will result in the disqualification from any further competition.

### POINT OF EMPHASIS

Teams interested in playing American Legion Baseball must have liability and accident insurance in force prior to the first practice or team tryout. The American Legion National Executive Committee has mandated that insurance must be purchased from the agent of record for The American Legion, which is S.A. Van Dyk, Inc.

Specific questions concerning coverage must be directed to the agent of record at **1-800-323-7326**. Any team (junior or senior) that wishes to play American Legion Baseball must purchase insurance from S.A. Van Dyk, Inc., prior to registering with the department of baseball committee.

**O. Lightning Safety.** The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a default policy to those responsible for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of contests based on the presence of lightning.

**P. National Senior Tournament Rules.** The Americanism Division may prescribe such rules for the playing of any national tournament as it consider necessary. Copies of these rules are available from the tournament director.

**Q. On-Deck Equipment.** Equipment permitted in the on-deck area includes bats, weighted and unweighted, and devices designed to attach to and remain part of the bat, such as weights and wind-resistant foils. Sledge hammers, weighted pipes and other “homemade” heavy items are not permitted. Devices deemed unsafe by the umpires and/or tournament director cannot be used.

**R. Pitching Rule.**

**Senior American Legion Baseball programs.** American Legion Baseball has adopted the pitch counts as described by PitchSmart.org. Those pitch counts are reflected in the chart below. No player may pitch more than a total of 120 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 the hitter. No player may enter the game as a pitcher unless 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 - Violation of the maximum pitch count (120) in one day or the required rest that accompanies the respective pitch count will result in immediate ineligibility of the violating player and coach. Ineligibility remains until reinstated by the Kansas American Legion Baseball Committee. The game in which the violation occurs will result in forfeiture.

**PITCH COUNT LIMITS & REQUIRED REST**

ALB SENIOR PROGRAM	DAILY MAX PITCHES	REQUIRED DAYS REST				
		0 DAYS	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS
AAA & AA	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+

Players that are dual rostered or dual participating in American Legion Baseball and other organized programs carry with them all accrued pitches from team to team and restrictions apply.

1. 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.
2. 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 Baseball Rule 8.04.)
3. A pitcher may intentionally walk a batter by notifying the umpire of that fact. No pitches need be thrown and the batter is awarded 1st base.

### POINT OF EMPHASIS

American Legion Baseball adopts the philosophy and principles of the MLB/USA Baseball Pitch Smart initiative of practical, age-appropriate guidelines to educate parents, players and coaches to avoid overuse injuries and foster long, healthy careers for youth pitchers. Learn more online at [pitchsmart.org](http://pitchsmart.org).

**T. Tobacco.** The use of any form of tobacco by a player, coach, manager or umpire while on the playing field, benches, in the bullpen or dugouts is prohibited. Any individual violating this rule will be ejected from the game.

### U. Run Rule.

1. 8 runs after 5 innings. 10 runs after 4 innings.

**V. Jewelry.** No jewelry of any kind will be worn during the game with the exception of medical identification.

**W. Uniforms.** Players and coaches must be in uniforms of the same color and style when competing in department (state) and national tournaments.

1. 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, jacket or alternate jersey will be removed from the game.
2. The front of the uniform shirt may carry lettering that identifies the post, department, town, city, community or sponsor that the team represents. Such lettering must be acceptable to the sponsoring department.
3. Approved American Legion Baseball insignia includes patches available through Emblem Sales, sublimation or screen printed onto the uniform shirt.

## JUNIOR SPECIFIC RULE 2

- A. Courtesy Runners.** Departments may use the courtesy runner rule for their respective Junior American Legion program: “Teams have the option to use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time. The umpire-in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation and announce it to the official scorer. For speed-up purposes, it is recommended that the courtesy runner be used with two men out in all games.”

### CLARIFICATION

The courtesy runner rule does not apply to a pinch-hitter for the catcher unless the catcher has been re-entered. A team may not use the same runner for the pitcher and catcher in the same inning. The courtesy runner may not be removed from a base to become a pinch hitter.

- B. Designated Hitter (DH) Rule.** “A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game. A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the starting lineup. A designated hitter for said player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer. Failure to declare a designated hitter prior to the game precludes the use of a designated hitter in that game. If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designated hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter. A designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation.”

### CLARIFICATION

The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game when a) the defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch-runs for the designated hitter, or b) the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

- C. Re-entry Rule.** Departments may use the following re-entry rule for their respective junior baseball program: “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.”

- D. National Junior Tournament Rules.** There shall be no nationally supervised post-season tournaments for the Junior Legion Baseball program. The National Americanism Commission understands that several departments host tournaments and that there are several regional “invitational” tournaments; however, these tournaments are supervised by their host departments. Obtain a copy of the Senior American Legion Baseball Tournament Rules and Policies from the department chairman or download it online at [www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball). Junior Legion Baseball tournaments shall follow the tournament procedures and policies of the senior baseball program.
- E. Pitching Rule.** 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 the hitter. **No player may enter the game as a pitcher unless 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 and team manager shall be ejected from the game if a protest is filed with the umpire-in-chief before the last out of the game.
1. Any player may be removed from the pitching position and remain in the game at another position. However, a pitcher will be automatically removed when a coach makes two trips to the mound in the same inning, and that player cannot return as a pitcher in that game. PENALTY - Forefeiture of the game if a protest is filed with the umpire-in-chief before the last out of the game.

**PITCH COUNT LIMITS & REQUIRED REST**

ALB JUNIOR PROGRAM	DAILY MAX PITCHES	REQUIRED DAYS REST				
		0 DAYS	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS
Class A	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+

- F. Player Eligibility - Player Age.** Must be 13 on Jan. 1 of the current year and cannot turn 18 in this calendar year.



## PLAYING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS RULE 3

- A. **Player Age.** Senior American Legion Baseball competition is open to all players who are at least 13 years old on Jan. 1 of the current year and will not turn 20 in the calendar year.

### POINT OF EMPHASIS

Jan. 1 is the universal cut-off date observed by the U.S. Olympic Committee. The American Legion will observe a Jan. 1 cut-off date.

- B. **Player's Domicile.** A player's legal domicile shall be established before March 31 yearly
1. A player's domicile shall be his parent's or permanent court-appointed guardian's permanent and legal domicile.
  2. If the parents are divorced by a court order, that player may play for a team of either parent's legal and permanent domicile provided.
    - a) The player must declare, in writing, the team of his choice and file that declaration with the department chairman prior to the department closing date. The player's declaration shall be final and valid for the remainder of the player's eligibility.

### CLARIFICATION

The enrollment of the school in which a player is enrolled on March 31 shall be counted. The completion of National Form #2 shall be proof of the player's choice. Once a player is deemed qualified and plays for a team, that player is not eligible to transfer. The player's eligibility is tied to that team.

3. **Graduated Students:** Players/students who graduate from high school in the year prior to this year shall have additional eligibility restrictions.
  - a) Players who graduated in the year prior to this year shall play for the last American Legion team they played for. If a team should fail to form and/or exist, or the graduated player last played for a junior program, the player must play for the team nearest his parent's domicile. Players who graduated in the year prior to this year shall not be eligible to be transferred (Forms #76 or #77). Their names must have appeared on a previously approved American Legion Baseball team roster.

4. In situations not covered by the provision of this rule, the department chairman will, with the concurrence of the National Appeals Board, determine the player's legal domicile for the purpose of his participation in the American Legion Baseball program. Such decisions shall be in writing and filed with National Headquarters.
- C. Professional Baseball Contract.** Players who are 18 years of age may be signed to a professional baseball contract in accordance with the rules of professional baseball.
- D. Amateur Rule.** Only amateurs shall participate as players in American Legion Baseball.

### CLARIFICATION

It is important that teams select and register players who will complete their obligation to their American Legion team. Any player who signs a professional contract cannot be replaced on National Form #1.

- E. Proof of Age.** The American Legion will accept as proof of age:
1. Records of birth that are an original or a certified document by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health or other governmental agency authorized to certify birth documents.
    - a) Notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital records, baptismal records, school records or certificates are not acceptable proof of age and will disqualify a player and/or the team.
  2. A state-issued driver's license that complies with the Federal Real ID Law, or a state-issued ID that is also in compliance with the Federal Real ID Law.
  3. A U.S. government-issued passport.
  4. A U.S. government-issued military ID card or dependent ID card.
  5. The American Legion will accept a document issued by a U.S. government agency or a foreign government-issued birth certificate if that document is an original or has a raised seal or stamp with an English translation. The American Legion will accept documents from any federal government agency.

## PLAYING RECRUITING PLAN B RULE 4

In the State of Kansas we will utilize National Rule Plan B only. Plan B base school recruiting allows both senior and junior Legion Baseball teams to select players who attend nearby high schools. High schools are combined to form a recruiting area. A player whose parent's domicile is nearest a base school is eligible to try out and play for the team if the player meets all other eligibility requirements and the combined enrollment of the recruiting area (combination of schools) does not exceed 5,000 students in the 10th, 11th and 12 grades.

### **A. Base School.** All teams must have a base school.

1. New teams must request and receive approval for a base school from the department baseball committee at the time the team registers with the department baseball committee.
2. Existing teams may request to change their base school. This request must be in writing and approved by the department baseball committee prior to submitting National Form #1.
3. If two or more teams are sponsored by the same American Legion post or outside sponsor, the department baseball committee will assign the base school for each team.

### **B. Player Recruiting.** Teams may select players who are enrolled on March 31 yearly, in any public, private, technical, vocational, regional or preparatory high school, or any combination.

1. Existing teams may request a new combination of schools from the department baseball committee; however, approval must be given prior to listing any player on National Form #1.
2. Teams may not recruit a player(s) from another team's base school.
3. Senior and Junior American Legion player(s) who qualify under Rule 4.D.
  - a) Combined total enrollment of the schools cannot exceed 5,000 for 10th, 11th and 12th grades.
4. Enrollment is determined using the number of 10th, 11th and 12th grade students officially recorded of March 31 yearly, by the state board of education or other state agency that has jurisdiction over school enrollment. Every student registered shall be counted, including special education students, physically challenged students, bilingual students, and students older than 19.

5. When single high school enrollment exceeds 5,000 students, the team that has such a school as its base school shall not recruit from any other school.

### POINT OF EMPHASIS

The enrollment of the high school the player attends will be counted. Emancipated players such as college or university students or players no longer in high school must play for the team nearest their parent's or guardian's domicile or for the team they last played. Teams shall count the enrollment of the last high school attended. The school enrollment for middle schools, junior high schools and high school freshmen classes shall not be counted.

- C. **Option Rule.** Players attending a high school (including freshmen) outside a team's recruiting area, may have the option of playing for the team nearest the high school the player attends or playing for the team nearest the parent's legal domicile. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by MapQuest.
1. The player must complete National Declaration Form #77, on which the player declares in writing the team for which he wishes to play.
    - a) Such election shall be for the one season only.
  2. The team manager must forward Form #77 to the department baseball chairman prior to listing the player on National Form #1.

### POINT OF EMPHASIS

The enrollment of the high school the player attends will be counted. Emancipated players and players enrolled in college must play for the team for which they played during the previous season. College players are not eligible for a transfer or option (Rule 4.C).

- D. **Transfer Rule.** A player released from a team must obtain permission on National Transfer Form #76 from the team's manager to play for the team next closest to his parent's domicile.
1. To determine the nearest team from among several, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by MapQuest.
  2. The player must provide signed Transfer Form #76 to the new team manager, which must be forwarded to the authorized department baseball official for approval, prior to listing the player on Form #1. All transfers shall be for one year.

## POINT OF EMPHASIS

A player who was enrolled in high school on March 31 who tries out for and fails to make the nearest team can request a transfer to the second closest team to their parent's domicile. If cut again, that player may try out for the third closest team.

3. Kansas allows two transfers maximum.
4. Any transfers across state lines require mutual written permission of both department chairman.

**E. Homeschooled Players.** A player who is homeschooled may compete for the team nearest the parent's or guardian's legal domicile. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by MapQuest.

1. Written permission for such competition must be obtained from the authorized department baseball official prior to listing the player on National Form #1.
2. Enrollment figures for such a player shall be that of the high school boundary of his parent's domicile.

**I. New Team Formation.** In the event a new Legion team is formed that is closer to a player's parent's domicile, that player has a one-time option of playing with the team for which he last played or for the new team.

1. The department baseball chairman, prior to listing the player on National Form #1, must grant written permission.
2. The enrollment shall be added to the team's total enrollment.

## TEAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS RULE 5

Kansas American Legion Baseball will be played in three classes 'A', 'AA', & 'AAA'. (See also National Rules).

### **Class 'A' (Junior)**

- A. Players cannot be eighteen (18) during the current year.
- B. A team may be recruited from one or more high schools, provided total enrollment does not exceed 5,000 students or 2,500 student if school(s) are restricted to all-male enrollment. All teams must have a base school.

### Class 'AA' (Senior)

- A. Players cannot be twenty (20) during the current calendar year.
- B. A team may be recruited for one or more schools with a combined total enrollment not to exceed 500 students or 250 students, if school(s) are restricted to all-male enrollment. All teams must have a base school.

### Class 'AAA' (Senior)

- A. Players cannot be twenty (20) during the current calendar year.
- B. All players may be recruited from one or more schools with a combined total enrollment not to exceed 5,000 students or 2,500 students, if school(s) are restricted to all male enrollment. All teams must have a base school.

## TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION      RULE 6

- A. **Entry Fee:** Any team that wants to participate in the state of Kansas American Legion Baseball program must pay their entry fee by May 15 of the current year. Any team registering from May 16 to May 31 may do so with a \$200.00 late fee. No registration is accepted after May 31. AA teams need to declare whether they will participate in zone and state tournaments as either AA or AAA when entry fee is paid. The winner of the State AAA Tournament proceeds to the National Regional Tournament. The winner of the State AA Tournament proceeds to the Mid-States Regional Tournament. The winner of the State A Tournament proceeds to the Mid-States Regional Tournament.

**Player and Team registration.** Teams wishing to compete in National American Legion Tournaments must register with the Kansas Department Baseball Committee using the ALB National Form #1 & Form #2.

1. The National Roster Form #1 and National Form #2 must be fully completed.
2. The authorized Department of Baseball Official must certify that the team is properly registered by the Kansas Department closing date hand delivered or by Certified Mail. **The team failing to certify by the June 15 closing date may be eliminated from post season play.**
3. All players and their parents or court approved legal guardians must complete Player Agreement and Parent's Consent Form #2. The *original* Form #2 must be filed with the Department Baseball Chairman. The Team manager will retain the second copy. **Any team or player who fails to complete and file Form #2 may be disqualified from any further play.**
4. Players may be dual rostered.
5. A team photo is required to be submitted with each team registration. They may be submitted online at [headquarters@ksamlegion.org](mailto:headquarters@ksamlegion.org).

- B. National Form #1.** American Legion Baseball players must enroll on Player Roster of Eligibility (ALB National Form #1). This form must be **completely filled out** to include each player's full name and the address of their parent's permanent legal residence. **Any team failing to certify by the deadline may be excluded from post season play.**
- C. Duo participation.** American Legion Baseball players or teams may participate in other amateur baseball programs, subject to Department approval. Approval must be obtained prior to any duo participation. Each player that wishes to duo participate must fill out the Department of Kansas Duo Participation form and forward prior to participation date to Department Baseball Chairman. Any player who duo participates after the start date of the Zone Tournaments will not be eligible to play in any American Legion games for the remainder of the season and any games the player participated in will be forfeited. There will not be any duo participation after the start of zone tournament.
- D. Players per team.** No team may have more than **18 registered players.** Each team must be certified by the Department closing date.
1. In cases of death, a player may be replaced on a certified roster.
  2. A player may be replaced if that player is placed on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States following the submission of the certified roster.
- E. Non-American Legion Post Sponsorship.** Outside sponsorship is permissible, subject to the approval and supervision of the Kansas Department Baseball Committee. Outside sponsorship must be applied for and receive approval from The American Legion State Baseball Committee. Application should be in writing to Department Committee prior to January 1 of the current year. There will be a limit of one American Legion Baseball team per outside sponsor.
- F. Insurance.** All teams must covered by Group Accident Insurance and Liability insurance for the **entire season. The season begins with the first day of tryouts or practice.** Every American Legion Baseball team must purchase both group liability and accident insurance from The American Legion's agent of record (S.A. VAN DYK). Coverage must be purchased prior to registering with the Department Baseball Committee.
- G. First Aid Kit.** Each team should have in its possession, a properly supplied First Aid Kit for use at all games.

**H. Medical Cards.** Properly completed Form #2's, one for each of the players with the team, will be in the possession of the team at all games.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP & CONDUCT      RULE 7**

- A. Conduct.** Managers, coaches or players who, in the opinion of the department chairman or his representative, conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner that would discredit this program may be removed by the department baseball committee. The department baseball committee's decision will be final.
- B. Flag Respect.** Conduct - All managers, coaches, and players are required to show proper respect for the American Flag and our National Anthem. Failure to show proper respect will result in the offender to forfeit their privilege to participate in American Legion Baseball. The responsibility to see that this proper respect is adhered to initially is the responsibility of team managers.
- C. Heckling.** No player, coach, manager or other party associated with an American Legion Baseball team shall abuse, heckle or make uncomplimentary remarks to opposing players, team officials or umpires. The umpire shall immediately eject from the game any individuals violating this regulation.
- D. Sportsmanship.** Any player, coach, manager or other party accompanying a team will be ejected from the game from the time of the infraction if they:
1. Use profane language.
  2. Throw bats or other equipment.
  3. Make unnecessary or obscene gestures to umpires, fans or opposing players.
  4. Commit unnecessary roughness on the playing field.
- E. Reinstatement.** Any player, coach or manager suspended from a game in tournament play by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct is suspended for the remainder of the tournament unless reinstated by the tournament director. The tournament director's decision is final.
- F. Ejection from the Ballpark.** Any player, coach or manager ejected by an umpire must leave the ballpark.



## DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION      RULE 8

- A. Department Policies and Regulations.** It is the duty of the department (state) baseball committee to formulate rules and regulations that are not in conflict with national rules.
1. Department recruiting policies may be more restrictive than national rules.
  2. Department policies will include procedure for protests. (The protection and stimulation of competition must be used in setting these regulations.)
  3. A copy of the department policies and regulations must be filed with National Headquarters before April 15 of the current year. Departments are encouraged to email a copy of their policies and regulations to **baseball@legion.org**.
- B. Department Rulings.** The department baseball committee shall decide all questions, disputes and protests within a department. The department baseball committee shall have the authority to disqualify or suspend anyone violating a department policy or national rule.
- C. National Player Eligibility Rule Interpretations.** The National Americanism Division shall make interpretations of national rules.
1. All requests for interpretations must be in writing and routed through the appropriate department baseball chairman or department adjutant. Telegrams, email and fax copies are considered written requests. Failure to follow this procedure may result in suspensions and/or forfeiture of fees.

## ZONE & STATE TOURNAMENTS      RULE 9

- A. Tournament Director.** The Zone Tournament shall be under the direction of the assigned District Baseball Chairman or the Tournament Director as appointed by the state committee. He will be the sole judge of the postponement of games due to impossible weather and other conditions which may require postponements. He shall select the Department certified umpires, official scorers, and communicate all tournament issues with state committee.
- B. Disputes.** All questions and disputes within the Zone will be decided by the assigned District Baseball Chairman or representative. The District Baseball Chairman shall name the Zone Champions to the Department not later than five (5) days prior to the opening date set for the State Tournament for each class.

- C. Bench.** Only registered players, the team field manager, two team coaches, one scorekeeper, two bat persons, members of the Sportsmanship Committee, and tournament officials will be allowed on the bench at Zone Tournaments.
- D. Host Team.** Any team hosting a State American Legion Baseball Tournament shall participate in zone tournaments.
- E. Team Appearance.** During zone or state tournaments any team failing to appear within 15 minutes following the scheduled start of a game will forfeit said game.
- F. Tournament Start.** No zone tournament shall start play more than 12 days prior to start of State Tournament.
- G. Bracket and Seeding.** All seeding and bracketing will be done by the District Representative and/or Zone Tournament Director. Seeding will be done by won/loss record. Home and visitors will be determined by coin flip.
- H. Championship Trophy.** The Zone Host will furnish a Championship trophy.
- I. Bids.** All bids for the State Tournaments should be submitted in writing to the Department Baseball Chairman at Department Headquarters on or before January 1. Such announcements will be published annually in the official Department Publication, *The Sunflower Legionnaire*. Requests for information and requirements for submitting bids for the Department Tournament should be addressed to the Department Baseball Chairman, c/o Department Headquarters.
- J. Tournament Director.** The tournament will be under the direction of the State Baseball Committee Representative. He will be the judge of the postponement of games due to impossible weather and other conditions which require postponements. Host Tournament director shall have the responsibility of selecting the official scorekeeper. Department will provide official score book. State Baseball Committee shall select umpires and official scorers. There shall be at least three (3) Department certified umpires for all seven inning games, and at least four (4) Department certified umpires will be used in some games.
- K. Sportsmanship Committee.** The Tournament Director shall be chairman of the Sportsmanship Committee, and shall name additional members, annually, to this committee to be in attendance at the annual Department Tournament. This committee shall meet during the championship game, and ballot to name the player that shall be declared the recipient of this trophy.

The announcement of the winner of the “FLOYD ROGERS SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY” shall be made at the awards ceremony following the championship game.

- L. Teams.** The Zone Champions and Host Team will play in the State Tournament to determine the State Champion of that class.
- M. Host Notification.** All team managers are to notify the Tournament Host of the tournament city, their exact time of arrival.
- N. Reporting Time.** Teams playing their first game of the tournament will report to the Tournament Director at the Tournament site 1 hour before they are scheduled to play.
  - 1. All teams must be checked in by 4:00 PM the first day of the tournament.
  - 2. Team appearance. Any team failing to appear within 15 minutes of any starting period will forfeit said game.
- O. Meals.** The Host Post will not be responsible for feeding teams during State Tournaments.
- P. Minimum Active Players.** Teams competing in ALB ‘AAA’ National Tournaments must have 12 players available for participation. 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 host teams at National Regional Tournaments.
- Q. Bench.** Only registered team players, the team field manager, team coaches, one scorekeeper, two bat persons, and tournament officials will be allowed on the bench at State Tournaments.
- R. Department Championship Play.** Department championship tournaments will comply with national tournament rules and policies outlined in National Rule 9 and American Legion Baseball Tournament Policies adopted by the National Americanism Commission. No department may enter a team in a national regional tournament without first conducting an official department tournament that had two or more certified teams participating.
  - 1. At least eight senior teams must be officially registered in regular season play for a department to enter a team in a national tournament.
- S. Minimum Active Players.** Team competing in American Legion Baseball senior national tournaments must have nine players available for

participation at a national tournament at all times. Teams with fewer than 12 players are permitted to transfer players registered on their affiliated Junior American Legion Baseball team roster to the senior team in order to have 12 players, but may not transfer a player to exceed 12 players. Any players transferred from junior team to senior team must be approved and certified by the department baseball chairman. The junior roster must be registered with the national office by June 15. Any senior team that does not have nine players will forfeit its right to participate, and the National Americanism Division - in consultation with the department baseball chairman - shall determine a suitable replacement team.

## **PROTESTS    RULE 10**

- A.** All questions and disputes at the Zone Tournament will be decided by the Zone Baseball Chairman. All questions and disputes at the State tournament shall be decided by the Department Baseball Chairman or his representative. When conditions permit, the chairman or his representative may appoint a committee of two from the Baseball Committee to assist him in making decisions. The Department Baseball official or committee in charge shall have the power to disqualify or suspend anyone violating Department or National regulations. No appeal shall be considered by the National Baseball Appeal Board until all established appeal procedures within respective Department rules have been exhausted, as certified in writing by the Department Baseball Chairman.
- B.** All protests of player eligibility must be specific with definite written proof. Eligibility protests of players involved in Zone, State, and National Tournaments must be filed in writing, accompanied by written proof of the question being raised, with tournament representative at each such tournament no later than 9:00 a.m., on the first day of the tournament involved, except where there is a discovery of fraud.
- C.** If a player is found to be ineligible, he shall be disqualified immediately, and that game shall be forfeited.
- D.** Protests of rule interpretations during actual game conditions must be filed with the Umpire-in-Chief before the next legally pitched ball is thrown from the pitching mound.
- E.** If a protest is allowed and a winner disqualified, the runner-up team shall be declared the winner in both the Zone and State Tournaments.

**Kansas State Executive Committee will develop and publish on line at [www.ksamlegion.org/baseball](http://www.ksamlegion.org/baseball) all State Baseball brackets.**

**Zone assignments will be published online at [www.ksamlegion.org/baseball](http://www.ksamlegion.org/baseball).**

**Zone assignments will be assigned by State Baseball Committee.**

**KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION STATE CHAMPIONS  
CLASS 'AAA'**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Champion</b>
1926		El Dorado	1971	Ottawa	Hays
1927			1972	Garden City	Hays
1928		Topeka	1973	McPherson	Winfield
1929		Kansas City	1974	Great Bend	Hays
1930		Salina	1975	Hutchinson	McPherson
1931		Salina	1976	El Dorado	Hays
1932		Salina	1977	Pittsburg	Topeka #400
1933		Topeka	1978	Winfield	Hays
1934		Wichita	1979	Hays	Topeka #400
1935		Topeka	1980	McPherson	Topeka #400
1936		Topeka	1981	Great Bend	Hays
1937		Kansas City	1982	Osborne	Great Bend
1938		Topeka	1983	Kansas City	Kansas City
1939		Topeka	1984	Great Bend	Shawnee Mission-2
1940		Topeka	1985	Topeka	Shawnee Mission-1
1941		Salina	1986	Emporia	*Derby
1942		Topeka	1987	Manhattan	*Kansas City 83/346
1943		Nondeclared	1988	Kansas City	*Salina #62
1944		Topeka	1989	Lawrence	*Kansas City 83/346
1945		Topeka	1990	Great Bend	**Olathe
1946	Russell	Topeka	1991	Newton	*Kansas City 83/346
1947	Pratt	Topeka	1992	Salina	*Salina
1948		Topeka	1993	Kansas City	*Shawnee
1949		Salina	1994	Hutchinson	Manhattan
1950		Parsons	1995	Kansas City	*Shawnee
1951	Russell	Wichita	1996	Newton	*Kansas City 83/346
1952	Russell	Topeka	1997	Pittsburg	*Topeka 400
1953	Olathe	Topeka	1998	Salina	Salina
1954	Wakeeney	McPherson	1999	Arkansas city	*Arkansas City
1955	Hutchinson	Wichita	2000	Hutchinson	*Hutchinson
1956	Osborne	Lawrence	2001	Newton	*Emporia
1957	Neodesha	Topeka	2002	Emporia	*Overland Park
1958	Wakeeney	Salina	2003	Hays	*Lawrence
1959	Salina	Salina	2004	Chanute	*Lawrence
1960	Salina	Salina	2005	Emporia	*Lawrence
1961	Salina	Hays	2006	Salina	*Lawrence
1962	Hutchinson	Lawrence	2007	Salina	*Salina Falcons
1963	Hutchinson	Russell	2008	Pittsburg	Pittsburg
1964	Salina	Lawrence	2009	Pittsburg	Pittsburg
1965	Great Bend	Salina	2010	Dodge City	*Manhattan MANKO
1966	Chanute	El Dorado	2011	Leavenworth	Salina Hawks
1967	Marysville	Hays	2012	Manhattan	Hays
1968	Hays	Hays	2013	Hays	*Hays
1969	Junction City	Wichita	2014	Pittsburg	*Pittsburg
1970	Hutchinson	Pittsburg	2015	McPherson	*Ottawa
			2016	Great Bend	*Ottawa

**CLASS 'AA'**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Champion</b>
1967	Chanute	Hutchinson	1992	Ottawa	Silver Lake
1968	Marysville	Yates Center	1993	Emporia	El Dorado
1969	Hays	Yates Center	1994	Ottawa	Ottawa
1970	Ransom	Yates Center	1995	Pratt	Baxter Springs
1971	Yates Center	Caney	1996	Hiawatha	Baxter Springs
1972	Ellsworth	Belleville	1997	Concordia	Nickerson
1973	Ellsworth	Tampa	1998	Pratt	*Pratt
1974	Seneca	Sedan	1999	Pratt	*Pratt
1975	Seneca	Silver Lake	2000	Hiawatha	*Larned
1976	Hill City	Sedan	2001	Larned	*Ottawa
1977	Osborne	El Dorado	2002	Hiawatha	**Ottawa
1978	Oberlin	Sedan	2003	Pratt	*Baxter Springs
1979	Concordia	Silver Lake	2004	Wathena	*Baxter Springs
1980	Osborne	Silver Lake	2005	Pratt	*Silver Lake
1981	Seneca	*Silver Lake	2006	Marysville	*K.C. Cyclones
1982	Elkhart	Silver Lake	2007	Pratt	*K.C. Cyclones
1983	Osawatomie	Pratt	2008	Sabetha	*Colby
1984	Marysville	*Pratt	2009	Sabetha	*Ottawa
1985	Russell	Baxter Springs	2010	Marysville	*Pratt
1986	Pratt	Pratt	2011	Ottawa	*Pratt
1987	Concordia	Pratt	2012	Sabetha	*Iola
1988	Norton	Iola	2013	Pratt	*Iola
1989	Concordia	Silver Lake	2014	Wathena	*Ft. Scott
1990	Marysville	Larned	2015	Colby	*Hays
1991	Russell	El Dorado	2016	Ft. Scott	*Larned

**CLASS 'A'**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Champion</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>Champion</b>
1981	Concordia	Seneca	1999	Junction City	*Topeka 400
1982	Manhattan	Lawrence	2000	Chanute	*Manhattan MANKO
1983	Newton	Manhattan	2001	Emporia	*Salina
1984	Belleville	Overland Park	2002	Hutchinson	*Hutchinson
1985	Newton	Kansas City 199	2003	Manhattan	*Manhattan MANKO
1986	Concordia	Manhattan	2004	Emporia	*Lawrence
1987	Concordia	Augusta	2005	Chanute	*Salina (Hawks)
1988	Manhattan	**Overland Park	2006	El Dorado	*Manhattan MANKO
1989	Ottawa	*Olathe	2007	Manhattan	*Manhattan MANKO
1990	Hays	*Lawrence	2008	Pratt	*Manhattan MANKO
1991	Manhattan	*Kansas City	2009	Emporia	*Manhattan MANKO
1992	Great Bend	*Olathe	2010	Pittsburg	*Shawnee Mission
1993	Manhattan	*Salina	2011	Salina	*Salina Hawks
1994	Hays	*Lawrence	2012	Pratt	*Salina Hawks
1995	Newton	Hutchinson	2013	Burlington	*Paola
1996	Junction City	*Olathe South	2014	Leavenworth	*McPherson
1997	Salina	*Kansas City #199 (Cere's Grain)	2015	Salina	*Arkansas City
1998	McPherson	*Hutchinson	2016	Great Bend	*Arkansas City

\*Denotes team representing Kansas at Regional Tournament.

\*\*Denotes Regional Winner.

## **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 Chairmen by the coaches, parents and other Legionnaires. The Department Chairmen meet annually to discuss and make recommendations for the good of the program. Those changes are forwarded to the National Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee, who in turn, make final recommendations to the National Americanism Commission who adopts or rejects these recommendations. Chairman and members of the National Americanism Commission vote on policy, procedures and rules. It is those suggestions passed on from the parents, coaches and team managers which have allowed The American Legion Baseball Program to become the most prestigious amateur baseball program in America.**

**HAVE A GREAT SEASON!**