

2019 Tournament Directors Guide

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The American Legion
Department of Nebraska
Athletic Committee

Dear Tournament Director,

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to volunteer for the position of Tournament Director. You won't regret the time and effort you and your American Legion Post personnel put into this important event.

To conduct a successful tournament, the tournament director must be knowledgeable about what is required of him and his committee. There are many points to remember. Some of these matters seem quite small and unimportant, but if neglected, they can be the difference between a successful tournament and one that does not meet acceptable standards.

On accepting the job as Tournament Director, you are undoubtedly aware that the responsibility for the successful operation of the tournament rests with you. This does not mean that you must shoulder all the responsibility for getting the work done. There are other members of your Post who are willing to assist if you ask them. An American Legion Baseball Tournament must have the complete backing of the American Legion Post.

In this guide, we will attempt to explain the duties of the tournament director and also offer some hints as to how to make the job rewarding and enjoyable. It demands a lot of time, but with effective management and cooperation of others in the Post, it will be an experience you will look back on with satisfaction many years from now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Moeller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jody M Moeller
Chairman
Department Athletic Committee

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NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

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 Department Athletic Committee. The Athletic Committee is a group of American Legion volunteers from many different areas of the state who give of their time and service to supervise the youth programs of The American Legion.

All Department of Nebraska Post Season tournaments will be played under the policies and rules established by the Athletic Committee. All disputes and questions shall be referred to the on-site Department Tournament Director appointed by the Department Commander. Any situations not specifically covered by the Major League, National or Nebraska American Legion rule books or this tournament regulation will be referred to the Department Athletic Committee Chairman, 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.

DEPARTMENT TOURNAMENT CERTIFICATION

A mandatory meeting will be held no earlier than 7 days and no later than 1 day prior to the tournament, You may have your meeting earlier as long as all teams agree with it and season records used for seeding shall include all games played up to the meeting date. All teams are required to play a minimum of 10 regular season games by the scheduled seeding of Area Tournaments. Teams not meeting the minimum requirements will be seeded last in the tournament.

By attending the area meeting, team representatives will have direct input into the pairing and other important matters and shall have no occasion to question them at a later date. Teams without representation at the meeting or failing to submit team records to the Area Tournament Director by the start of the meeting will be given a record of 0 wins and 0 losses. The Department Athletic Committee requires the seeding of Area tournaments by complete season records regardless of class or division, except for those cases where every team in an area is part of the same league. League records may then be used as determined by the majority of the team representatives at the area seeding meeting.

Following the seeding meeting, Area Tournament Directors will fill in the schedule blanks provided by the Department Headquarters and return it to the Activities Director as soon as possible. Game numbers always remain the same even if the game time is changed. State Tournament Directors will have a meeting of coaches prior to the start of the State Tournaments. State Tournament Directors will use the State Tournament Brackets in the Nebraska Legion Baseball Rule Book.

The Team Manager or Head Coach is responsible for ensuring the following items are presented to the local tournament director at the tournament seeding meeting for verification.

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

1. American Legion Baseball ID cards produced by the Department Headquarters are mandatory for all players. If the team or player does not have the ID card, contact the Athletic Committee rep for your Area immediately. Other forms of age verification can be used but must be present at each game the player plays in and will be retained by the player. (make note of the player so they can be checked prior to each game)

Original or State Certified Birth Certificates **or**
driver's license that complies with the new Federal Real ID Law; **or**
a military ID, dependent ID **or** a US passport.

2. Signed copies of each Player's Emergency Information (**Form #2**).

3. Team Photographs (color). Two (2) if in hard copy, 5x7. If digital, email to the Department and/or the local tournament director, the Department will forward photo to the tournament director.

Note: Team photos will be used in local newspapers and the program. Please keep resolution as high as possible; do not reduce original size when emailing.

4. The Team Roster; The team roster will be downloaded from the national baseball website www.legion.org/baseball. Department Chairman shall verify that the team manager and coaches have successfully passed the mandated background screening requirements.

5. Form #76 (Transfer Form) if any.

6. CDC Certificate of Training for Brain Injury (or equivalent).

7. S.A. VanDyk insurance forms.

8. Nebraska American Legion Baseball Code of Conduct (see Tab D)

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY PROTESTS

Eligibility protests of players involved in Department tournaments must be **in writing and provide proof of ineligibility**. They must be filed with the Local Tournament Director at each tournament seeding meeting, 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.

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

Once American Legion Baseball tournaments begin (Area through State Playoffs) no player can participate in another amateur baseball event, UNLESS that program has been sanctioned by The American Legion. Currently only Baseball Factory and USA Baseball events have been sanctioned.

GAME PROTESTS

There shall be no protests filed during tournament play that are based on judgment decisions of the umpires.

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. A protest fee of \$50 shall be posted with the Tournament Director at the time of the protest and the protest must be resolved before the game proceeds. The Tournament Director will immediately contact the respective

Athletic Committee Representative to immediately resolve the protest. If the Tournament Director and Department Athletic Committee Representative uphold the protest, the fee will be returned. If the protest is denied, the fee will be added to Athletic Committee fund.

The Tournament Director must submit a written account of the protest with in twenty four hours to Department. The Department Committee will not discuss protests with team coaches or managers until the formal written protest has been received from and explained by the local Tournament Director, and then only after a ruling on the protest has been made. See Rule 2.10

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Brackets will be provided by the Department and are to be the only bracket format used; tournaments must begin on Friday provided there is not a “play in” part of the bracket (7 and 9) which may be played on Thursday. Allowances may be made for 9+ team tournaments, but requests to start early must still be approved by the Athletic Chairman.
2. No team shall be required to play more than two games in one day. Suspended games will be completed from the point of suspension.
 - a. A suspended game completed on a second day will not count toward the “two games in one day rule” - these teams can still play an additional two (2) full games.
 - b. When a game is suspended on one day but will be completed the following day(s), the pitcher will be charged with an appearance and for the pitches at the time of suspension and will follow the required days’ rest. Any appearances or pitches pitched by that pitcher the next or following day(s) will be charged to that next or following day. If a pitcher pitches 30 or fewer pitches prior to the suspension, they can pitch the next day but if, at the time of suspension, the pitcher has exceeded 30 pitches they will be required to follow the chart. See ALB 1. R and MLB Rule 9.1. (there were concerns about this at the 2018 TD meeting – they are correct)
3. Senior & Junior Legion teams will play double elimination, 7 inning games in both Area and State Tournaments. The 10-run lead at the end of 5 innings will apply for seven inning games.
4. Determining home team: Area tournaments, during the seeding meeting; if teams records are tied, the tie breaker is head to head then coin flip. For first game of play, home team will be higher seed. All subsequent games, home team will be determined by coin flip prior to each game. In the “if necessary game” teams will swap Home and Visitor in 2nd game.
 - a. Any team manager late for an assigned coaches meeting shall be declared the visiting team.
 - b. Players should be introduced prior to starting the game. The “Code of Sportsmanship” will be recited preceding ALL first round games and before every championship game.
5. During Area tournaments the Tournament Director has the option to change the starting times of the Host team's games to allow them to play at a time when they can expect to draw the largest gate. During State tournaments, the time can only be changed for the first Host game of play.

Clarification: This rule is in place to give Posts a better chance to have financial success when hosting tournaments. IT MUST BE NOTED ONLY THE GAME STARTING TIME MAY BE CHANGED! THE TOURNAMENT BRACKET CANNOT CHANGE AND GAME NUMBERS MUST BE FOLLOWED.

6. Class A Senior Legion teams will each have an area winner and runner-up. After the seven areas have been completed, the area winners and runner-ups will be split into two eight team State Tournaments. One called the National Division and the other called the American Division. The winners of each division will play a 3 game series playoff at a designated tournament site to determine the Class A State Champion. See the back of the rule book.

7. For Class B & C Seniors & Juniors: The host post concept will be followed in all state tournaments. In the case when a State tournament host post qualifies for the state tournament as an area winner then the Area runner up from that tournament will assume the Champion position from that Area.
8. For Class A Seniors (and Juniors, para b): State tournament seeding, where Area Tournament champion and runner-up seed to separate Class A state tournament divisions (American and National), the following applies:
 - a. If the state tournament host team finishes as Area champion or runner-up, that team will return to their host state tournament to fill the Area champion or runner-up seed in the bracket. The 1st or 2nd place team will fill the area champion or runner-up seed at the alternate site. The 3rd place team (loser of the semi-final game) will then be designated as the host post in the state tournament.
 - b. For Areas 1 through 4, which utilize serpentine seeding for area tournaments: If the state tournaments host team finishes as Area champion or runner-up, that team will return to their host state tournament to fill the Area champion or runner-up seed in the bracket. The other 1st or 2nd place team will fill the Area champion or runner-up seed at the alternate state tournament site. The host team will then be decided by the best winning percentage of 3rd place teams amongst Areas 1-4.
9. Playing days may begin after 8:00 a.m. local time.
10. No tournament game shall start after 11:00 p. m. local time.
11. Official Baseball Rules - Designated Hitter (DH) rule (pitcher only) will be used in tournament play as outlined in the Official Rules of Baseball.
12. Courtesy Runner and Re-Entry: NALB will allow courtesy runner and re-entry the entire season with the exception of the Class A National and American Division tournaments and beyond.
13. In the case of rain, games may be moved to other locations at the discretion of the Department Athletic Committee Chairman.
14. The pitching rule will be observed throughout all levels of tournament play. The Area Tournament Director will submit the pitch count for the teams traveling to the next level of play to that TD.
15. Teams will dress in the hotel or at home. No team shall dress at the ballpark unless dressing rooms are provided.
16. See 4.06 of the NALB Rule Book. Any player, coach or manager ejected from an American Legion Baseball game during **Area** or **State** tournaments for conduct are suspended for the remainder of that game and will also serve a **Mandatory** one game suspension. Department Athletic Committee members may increase the length of the suspension if the situation warrants. Suspensions must be served starting with next playable game following the ejection unless reinstated by the Department Athletic Committee Chairman. While serving these suspensions Coaches or Players will not be allowed in uniform or in the dugout to include: pregame warm ups and coaching via signals, cell phone or another communication medium.
 - a. All suspensions carry over to the following games, if suspended during the regular season and the next game(s) will be during the post season, the suspension will be enforced during the post season. If suspended during Area Tournaments, the suspension will carry over to State tournaments if needed.
 - c. **Malicious Contact:** During regular season play the Athletic Committee may impose a longer suspension period depending on the severity. During Area and State tournaments, the player is automatically removed from the remainder of the Area or State Tournament (unless that player is

reinstated by the Department Athletic Committee.) Players removed from a game (other than ejection by an umpire) may be used as a base coach.

17. The Tournament Director must approve all batboys or batgirls. Batboys/girls **MUST** wear a Helmet.
18. 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 to provide a copy of their certification.
19. All people in the dugout must be listed on the National form 1 (Roster). 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.**
20. Be prepared for any emergency. Have a phone available in your press box or nearby. Notify your local EMTs to be alert for any emergency during your tournament. Perhaps you can secure the volunteer cooperation of local health care workers or physical therapists to attend games and be available for medical assistance.

Bat Rule The American Legion modified the bat rule in January of 2012. The rule is very simple.

- **Wood bat.** The bat must be smooth, rounded stick not more than 2 ¾ 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).
- **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 5/8 inches.
- Any **non-wood bat** must have the BBCOR certification code marked on the barrel of the bat.
- 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, the player shall be ejected and the team manager shall be ejected.

PITCHING RULES

1. See National Rule book for **full pitching rules: Senior aged players (18-19), Rule 1.R page 14; Junior aged players (13-17): Rule 1.R page 60.**

Senior & Junior Program	Daily max (pitches in game)	Required rest (pitches)				
		0 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days
	105	0-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+

2. 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 pitches pitched on the first day and will follow the day’s rest chart. Any pitches pitched by that pitcher on the next day will be charged to the second day. One appearance will be charged for each appearance. Official Recorder, See MLB Rule 9.1

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 re-inserting a pitcher: Forfeiture of the game if a protest is filed with the umpire in chief before the next pitch is thrown.

CONDUCT

Suspensions for violations of NALB Rule 4.01 and 4.02 are for the remainder of the tournament unless the Athletic Committee Chairman reduces the suspension.

DEPARTMENT TOURNAMENT - ON FIELD CONDUCT

Point of Special Emphasis

4.02 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT: Any umpire, manager, coach or player who displays un-sportsmanlike conduct or discredits this program, in the opinion of the Department Athletic Chairman or his representative, may be removed from further participation in any American Legion Baseball competition as determined by the Department Athletic Committee. This includes but is not limited to actions during pre-game warm up and post-game departure from the park area. During the National Anthem, teams will assemble on the base line, stand, face the U.S. Flag, remove their headgear and place their right hand over their heart. Unsportsmanlike conduct incidents will be considered by the Department Athletic Committee during the selection of Area and State Tournament host sites.

*The umpires should be 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 other fans, opposing players or coaches.

See Rule 4.0 in the NEALB Rule book and Rule 7 in the National Rule book for clarification of ejections and suspension penalties.

DEPARTMENT 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. 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 Department Chairman 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.

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

AMERICAN LEGION FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

1. Coaches and Team Managers shall work closely with hotel officials and conduct inspections of rooms prior to the departure, check-out, and release of tournament teams. Any expense for damage incurred will be inherited by the player, team or Post serving as the team sponsor. **NOTE:** It is suggested that rooms be inspected before the visiting teams arrive.
2. The tournament host will provide Legion Logo balls, ground rental, and pay all other expenses of staging the tournament. The Department Athletic Committee will furnish and pay umpires for all State Tournaments, Senior and Junior. The Department Athletic Committee will furnish plaques and awards. Registered & Certified umpires will be used to work Area Tournament games. Selection of umpires should be discussed at the seeding meeting attended by representatives of all teams. Tournament Directors must exercise common sense in assigning umpires. Relatives of coaches or players shall not umpire home plate. When the host team is playing, make every effort to schedule an umpire other than a local to work the plate. Tournament Directors, district chairmen or team managers shall not serve as umpires. **Area Tournament Directors will send a list of umpires chosen, to Department Headquarters, so umpires chosen, can be verified (being registered & certified) and approved by Department Headquarters prior to working any tournament games.** Selecting umpires can often be made simpler by employing a chief umpire and having them assign the crew. Should this approach be taken, the chief umpire shall be ultimately responsible for crew assignments unless otherwise agreed upon between the chief umpire and the Tournament Director. Coaches shall have no input as to umpire assignments relative to who works which position. Provide a suitable private dressing and break area for your umpires. If you have a camper or trailer available, your crew will appreciate it. An air conditioned unit should be considered.
3. The host post will pay all teams commuting to the tournament for each of their games \$30 a day per diem and 60 cents a mile one-way for each day they travel and participate in a tournament game. Distances will be taken from Google maps.

4. The host post will pay all teams staying at the tournament site 60 cents a mile one way for their original trip to the tournament site, and \$100 a day expense money for each day they are at the tournament site, until eliminated. Area champions who live within 100 miles of the state tournament site will not be authorized housing. Rule 7.02 (b) will apply to teams fitting into this category.
5. Teams which lie outside of the 100-mile radius must state their preference of commuting to tournament games or staying at the tournament site prior to the first game of the tournament.
6. In case of rained out games, the Department Athletic Committee will pay per diem and mileage expenses of teams participating in the tournament if the host post shows a loss on the complete tournament. Expenses will be paid for rained out games only.
7. The host post will pay Department Headquarters a State Tournament financial award fee of \$1000.00, payable within 15 days following the completion of the tournament. Should the tournament host show a financial loss after completion of the tournament, a waiver of the State Tournament bid fee should be requested in writing to the Department Athletic Committee from the Post Commander. The waiver must show a complete financial breakdown of expenses and revenue with receipts and invoices attached.
8. Tournament Directors will forward Area Tournament champion teams photos to the State Tournament Directors. There is a very short window between tournaments, so do not delay on this.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Official Scorer. Appoint an Official Scorer for your tournament games. The Official Scorer will provide a pitching record for both teams prior to the start of each tournament game. It shall also be the duty of the Official Scorer to notify the plate umpire when a pitcher has only 10 pitches of pitching eligibility remaining. The team coach/manager must notify the plate umpire of all substitutes to be recorded by the official scorer.

The Press Box. Obtain the services of mature and responsible volunteers to run your press box as announcer, scorer, and scoreboard operator. Extras and unnecessary personnel should not be allowed. Your press box is a completely NEUTRAL ZONE, and absolutely no partisan remarks, noises, or chants should be allowed. Rules of conduct and sportsmanship apply equally to tournament officials and press box volunteers. (TAB B)

Delegate! As mentioned earlier, seek assistance from other members of the Post. Don't attempt to do everything alone. Individuals should be appointed to handle such items as publicity, ticket sales, concessions, public address announcer, parking and foul ball "snaggers". Have a crew available to handle grounds keeping chores. As Tournament Director, your responsibility is to coordinate the overall operation.

Get the word out! A tournament cannot be a financial success if no one knows about it. The Tournament Director should be sure that pre-tournament publicity is circulated in the towns taking part in order to better ensure a good return at the gate. Flyers announcing the tournament and including the schedule are a good investment.

Advertising. Many tournament hosts have found it to be profitable to print programs to give away or sell during the tournament. The success of this, of course, depends upon the advertisers in your community. If your post decides to print a program and sell advertising, a committee should be appointed to handle this activity. (TAB A)

Game Reporting. Following each tournament game, the director should ensure that scores and highlights of the game are phoned in or emailed to the news media and updated on the tournament

Score Reporting website. When communicating with members of the media, please use the organizations full and legal name, "THE AMERICAN LEGION." The program name is "AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL."

State Tournament Directors will coordinate with Area Tournament Directors and provide information and instructions as to the schedule and activities of the State Tournament for Junior and Senior Area Tournament winners. Area Tournament Directors will pass along these instructions to Area Tournament winners immediately upon completion of each championship game.

Local Website. It is highly suggested that each tournament host site have a Tournament website. The web page should be created well in advance of the tournament. At the very least, the website should contain a tournament bracket that can be updated daily, even hourly, to reflect the results of tournament competition. This website can be used to advertise the tournament, provide tournament information, show tournament brackets and report scores. Extras that can be added include: schedule of events, Team Pictures, Statistics and game reporting, Special tournament functions, drawings, contests, Host Post information, Directions, Phone numbers for information, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, local hotels and any corporate sponsors are key elements to a successful website. Your website can be linked from the Nebraska American Legion Baseball website.

The American Legion Emblem and American Legion Baseball logo. A digital image may be obtained from <http://www.legion.org/emblem/download>. The image may be used without permission as long as it is reproduced on a non-durable item, such as paper. If used on a durable item, only the National Adjutant, or his designated representative (American Legion Emblem Sales), may give authority to use the registered names, emblems, or logos of The American Legion. If you have a need for shirts, caps, pins, tacks, signs, stickers, etc. for emblem use, fill out the "Request for Use of American Legion Name or Emblem on Merchandise" form in your packet. Fill it out **completely** and include a depiction of the use of the emblem/logo/name in the box provided. Send it to the Department of Nebraska.

Questions: Call Department 402-464-6338 or
email actdirlegion@windstream.net
FAX: 402-464-6330

"An American Tradition"

MEDIA

The following telephone numbers and email addresses are provided to assist you in obtaining news media coverage of your American Legion Baseball Tournament:

Alliance Times Herald	308-762-3060	athnews@alliancetimes.com
Beatrice Daily Sun	402-223-5233	news@beatricedailysun.com
Columbus Telegram	402-564-2741	col.editor@lee.net
Falls City Journal	402-245-2431	fcjournal@sentco.net
Fremont Tribune Sports	402-721-5000	tribnews@ftrib.com
Grand Island Independent	308-382-1000	newsdesk@theindependent.com
Hastings Tribune Sports	402-462-2131	tribune@hastingstribune.com
Hastings NBC Nebraska Sports		Jeff.packer@nbcneb.com
Holdrege Daily Citizen	308-995-4441	holdregecitizennews@yahoo.com
Kearney Hub	308-237-2152	news@kearneyhub.com
Lincoln Journal/Star Sports	402-473-7431	sports@journalstar.com
McCook Gazette	308-345-4500	editor@mccookgazette.com
Nebraska City News Press	402-873-3334	kmanion@ncnewspress.com
Norfolk Daily News	402-371-1020	ndnews@norfolkdailynews.com
North Platte Telegraph	308-532-6000	editor@nptelegraph.com
Omaha World Herald	402-444-1000	sports@owh.com
Scottsbluff Star Herald Sports	308-632-9050	jeff.fielder@starherald.com
Sidney Sun Telegraph	308-254-2818	dlaw@suntelegraph.com
Wayne Herald	402-375-2600	sports@wayneherald.com
York News Times	402-362-4478	news@yorknewstimes.com

OTHER NUMBERS

NBC Nebraska (Hastings)	402-463-1321	desk@nbcneb.com
NXPN Kearney	308-236-9900	generalmanager@kkpr.com
KJSK-AM Columbus	402-564-2866	kjsk@megavision.com
KOLN KGIN TV Lincoln	402-467-4321	desk@kolnkgin.com
KNOP TV North Platte	308-532-2222	knop@knoptv.com
KETV Omaha	402-345-7777	news@ketv.com
KMTV Omaha	402-592-3333	news@action3news.com
KPTM TV OMAHA	402-558-4200	news42@kptm.com
WOW TV Omaha	402-346-6666	sixonline@wowl.com
KDUH TV Scottsbluff	308-632-3071	john@kotatv.com

For a complete listing of media, contact the Department @ 402-464-6338.

First Aid Kit: Suggested contents for a medical kit for American Legion Baseball Teams:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Materials</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Materials</u>
20 each	Band-Aids	1 tube	Triple Antibiotic Ointment
1 roll	Moleskin - small	1 can	tape remover - small
2 rolls	3 in. Elastic Bandages	1 can	Tufskin
2 rolls	4 in. Elastic Bandages	1 box	Gauze pads (3 in. x 5 in.)
2 rolls	6 in. Elastic Bandages	1 pair	Scissors
1 can	Tincture of Benzoin	6 rolls	1-1/2 in. Athletic tape
1 each	Callus file	1 roll	Pro-wrap
1 each	Fingernail clippers	1 can	Betadine
1 bottle	Ibuprofen	1 bottle	Disinfectant
1 box	Telfa pad (2 in. x 3 in.)	2 each	Instant cold pack
1 bottle	Rubbing alcohol	1 pound	Heat balm analgesic
1 each	Water jug	1 can each	Powder, foot and body
1 bottle	Eye wash	2 bags	Biohazard materials disposal
6 pairs	Rubber gloves	1 tube	Eye black

Other items that might be included:

1. A needle to break blisters
2. Felt padding to be used as pressure pads
3. Thread and needles for sewing of uniforms, gloves, etc.
4. Tongue depressors to apply ointments
5. Cotton swabs for applying fluids
6. Small flashlight to check eyes
7. Arm sling
8. Quarters and dimes for the telephone in case of an emergency

Note: Commercial companies sell medical kits that contain most of these items. Check with your local supplier.

Managers and Coaches should familiarize themselves with proper First Aid techniques. Always get professional medical assistance if there is a serious injury.

Know where the nearest telephone is located at any playing field in case of emergency.

Minor problems such as cuts, scratches, etc., should be tended immediately. In the event of possible fractures, concussions or internal injury, contact the local emergency unit for treatment and transportation to a hospital. If there is any type of head injury, the player **MUST BE** removed from the game.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TRANSPORT any player who may be suffering from a suspected fracture, head or neck injury, call trained emergency personnel.

Heat exhaustion is a common problem when playing in the summer. Keep ample water available at every American Legion Baseball game and practice session.

In the event of serious injury, have the National Form #2 (Parent's Consent Form) and the S.A.

VanDyk insurance policy for all players in the possession of the adult accompanying the person to hospital.

UMPIRE AND TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS CHECK LIST

- ___ Have dressing room facilities for umpires & away from the fans.
- ___ Baseballs available for umpires in the dressing facility.
- ___ Have a ball boy or ball girl available if possible.
- ___ Water available for umpires during the game.
- ___ Tournament Directors discuss pitching limit to coaches.
- ___ Coaches are to contact the tournament director to have the **flip of a coin to determine which team will be the home and visitor**. (Teams are not to move into the dugouts until this has been done)
- ___ Tournament Directors discuss all ground rules in detail to coaches & umpires before the tournament.
- ___ Coaches must be in like uniform w/patch as the players.
- ___ Tournament games must start on time. Have infield practice, announcements and National Anthem done before game time. **The National Anthem will be played prior to the start of EVERY game**. Your choice as to if there is a big ceremony or just a CD.
- ___ Chief Umpire go over ground rules in detail prior to the start of the first game then it is not necessary to be done again.
- ___ Coaches required to give home plate umpire the team line-up card during umpire/coaches meeting before game.
- ___ Don't allow team (home team) to take the field until the home plate meeting with the coaches and umpires are completed.
- ___ Umpires must check bats & helmets with optional face shields before every game. This to be done by base umpire(s). Give bad/rejected bat & helmet to tournament director until a team is eliminated. All bats & helmets must meet and have NOCSAE seal of approval.
- ___ Bat boys and bat girls must wear helmet with optional face shield at all times.
- ___ Except for lengthy delays, the pitcher will be limited to (5) warm-up throws between innings.
- ___ No jewelry.
- ___ **All players, coaches and equipment to remain in dugout area at all times.**
- ___ Only the on deck batter is allowed outside of the dugout area.
- ___ Only the head coach can dispute an umpire's call on the field.
- ___ Designated hitter (DH) for pitcher only.
- ___ Force-play slide rule in effect at all times at all bases.
- ___ Players, coaches and umpires must wear the Legion patch.
- ___ Base Coaches must wear helmets.
- ___ No time limit during post season play.
- ___ Have a warm-up catcher ready if starting catcher is the last batter. ANYONE warming up a pitcher must wear a mask.
- ___ No profanity
- ___ When warming up a pitcher in the bullpen, the catcher must wear a mask and a third player must protect players from line drives and foul balls.
- ___ Catchers must have extended throat protector attached to catcher's mask. Either manufactured or attachable extension is acceptable.
- ___ Have your teams hustle in and out between innings.
- ___ Shirttails are to be tucked in.
- ___ Review state rule 2.11 and 6.08. A protest fee of \$50.00 shall be posted with the tournament director of the time of the protest and before the game resumes. A written protest must be delivered to the tournament director with 60 minutes following end of game. If no written protest is submitted, the money is forfeited.

2018 Scholarship Winners

**JIM HURLBERT
AMERICAN LEGION
MEMORIAL BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP**

Nathan Lauder, Alliance
Alexis Ortega, Grand Island
Alberto Ortega, Grand Island
Jordan Owens, Crete

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
NEBRASKA BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP**

Braiden Ruffin
North Platte, Nebraska

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- To inculcate in youth a better understanding of the American way of life and to promote the principles of 100% Americanism.
- To instill in the nation's youth a sincere desire to develop within themselves a feeling 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 for the Nation's future through our youth.

CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

- 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

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL HISTORY

“In this city on July 17, 1925, by action of the South Dakota Department of The American Legion, the nationwide organization of Legion Junior Baseball was first proposed as a program of service to the youth of America.” Those words are inscribed on a marble monument in the community of Milbank, South Dakota as a reminder of the beginning of this fine Americanism program. The program’s years of existence can be explained best by a portion of that inscription: “A program of service to the youth of America.” Since its beginning, over ten million young men have played Legion Baseball.

American Legion Baseball became a National program by convention action in 1925, and the first National Tournament was held in 1926. Only 16 states were represented in this first year of national operation. In 1928, Mr. Dan Sowers, the Director of the National Americanism Commission, appeared before the Executive Council of Baseball in Chicago, which agreed to underwrite the national program up to \$50,000. With the exception of two years, the Major Leagues have continually supported American Legion Baseball. Major League Baseball continues to make a financial contribution each year.

During the 1929 season, every state entered teams into competition. Nineteen thirty-one marked the first appearance in championship play of a player who was later to become a big-league great. Kirby Higbe hurled a complete game for Columbia, South Carolina, and lost the final game in the 14th inning, 1-0. Ten years later, he was the National League’s top pitcher.

1940 and 1941 marked the years that American Legion Baseball became an established national institution for American youth. During the war years, the program was restricted but continued its service to our nation’s youngsters. The post-war years saw the continued growth of the program and the nation’s realization of the importance of this type of activity for boys of all age groups.

In 1949, the selection of an American Legion Player of the Year was originated. This was arranged through the cooperation of Mr. Robert Quinn, Director of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York. The sixties saw the program grow stronger under the leadership of George W. Rulon, Program Coordinator for American Legion Baseball, who held that post from 1961 until 1987. Upon his retirement, The American Legion Player of the Year Award was renamed the George W. Rulon Player of the Year in honor of the late Program Coordinator.

The seventies saw three more national awards established by the National Americanism Commission. The Dr. Irvin L. (Click) Cowger RBI award, Rawlings Big Stick Award, and the Bob Feller pitching awards were established based on player’s statistics in Regional and World Series Tournaments.

In 1982, the National Americanism Commission adopted the eight-site, eight team, and double elimination Regional Tournament format. Sixty-four of the best teams in the country began National competition at the Regionals.

In 1998, The American Legion established a national baseball scholarship. A \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to each participating Department. A total of \$51,000 is awarded annually to 51 outstanding American Legion Baseball players based upon leadership, character, scholarship and financial need. The Quaker Oats Company makers of Gatorade annually contributes \$10,000 towards scholarships to help us honor Eight Regional Players of the Year as well as The American Legion Player of the Year.

Over 80,000 players, ages 15-19, participated in 2015. Since 1925, over 10 million young peoples have played American Legion Baseball. Since 1985, over 1,900 new teams have registered to play American Legion Baseball. Local American Legion Posts also support and sponsor some 2,500 younger-age teams who are registered with Little League, Babe Ruth, Pony, Dixie as well as many other youth sports teams such as soccer, bowling, hockey, etc.

On an average 55 percent of Major League Baseball, players played American Legion Baseball as teenagers. Nearly 75 percent of all college players played American Legion Baseball as teenagers. Forty-six American Legion Baseball graduates have been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

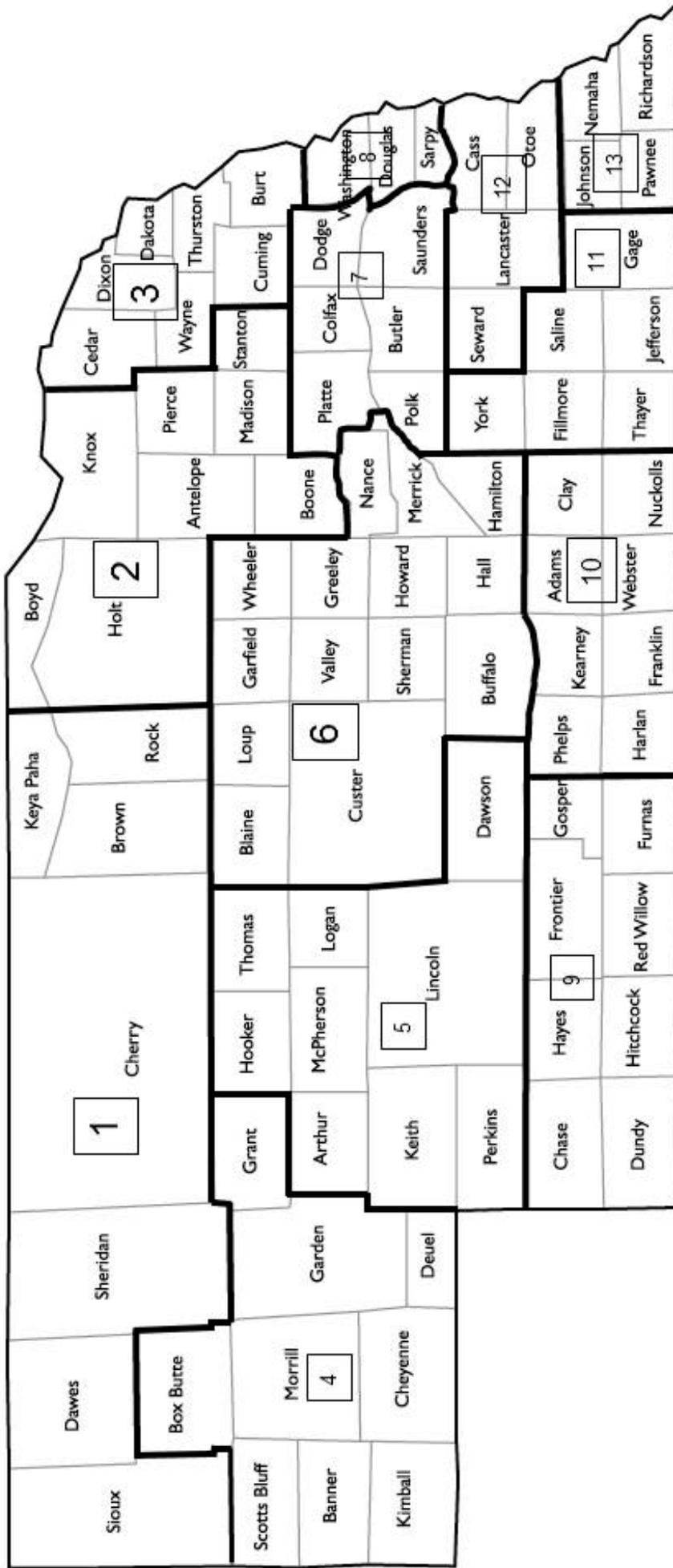
Since 1926, Major League Baseball has honored, The American Legion World Series Champions at the Major League World Series. The Commissioner's Office annually presents a plaque to The American Legion champions on the field at The Major League World Series. The 2017 National Championship team from Henderson, NV attended the MLWS in Houston, TX. Before Game 4, the team participated in a Play Ball clinic for youth at the Astros Youth Academy with Anthony Rizzo of the Chicago Cubs, gold medalist Jennie Finch, commissioner Rob Manfred, Houston mayor Sylvester Turner and Astros owner Jim Crane.

This season marks the 93rd Anniversary of competition in the program. Its purpose continues to be the same as it was in 1925, "An investment in America's Youth." The history of American Legion Baseball has proven that America's youth receive on the baseball diamond a thorough understanding of the true value of sportsmanship, leadership and individual character building.

For over 90 years, America's largest veteran's organization, The American Legion, has sponsored a baseball program. During these nine-decades over 10 million players have learned about teamwork, team loyalty, leadership and sportsmanship. American legion Baseball has been a very organized and competitive baseball program. The American Legion has a strong history of hosting outstanding tournaments. Whether these tournaments are invitational tournaments hosted by individual teams or The American Legion World Series, the competition will be outstanding and the event well-orchestrated.

American Legion Baseball enjoys a reputation as one of the most successful and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues. Today, the program registers more than 5,400 teams in all 50 states, including Canada and Puerto Rico. American Legion Baseball is a "Winning Tradition".

American Legion District Boundaries



Area A 3-8-14	Area B 2-6-7	Area C 10-11-12-13-15	Area D 1-4-5-9	AT LARGE
Don Kiviniemi Jr Omaha 402-689-1113	Dean Beck Scribner 402-372-8264	Bill Kerns Crete 402-416-2462	Rick Hessler Chadron 308-432-4596	Jody Moeller Chairman 308-216-1130
Bud Neel Wayne 402-369-1873	John Smyth Greeley 308-428-3065	Joe Ruzicka Seward 402-643-3119	Anthony McCreery North Platte 308-530-9465	Umpire Chief Tim Riskowski 402-216-3328

The American Legion
Department of Nebraska
P.O. Box 5205
Lincoln, NE 68505

Dear Team Manager:

In an effort to improve the American Legion Baseball tournaments, we would appreciate and welcome your evaluation of the Tournament and how it was conducted. Any and all comments will be appreciated. We need an honest assessment of the entire tournament to be effective.

Please complete this form and hand it to the Tournament Director prior to your departure. Or mail to the Department Nebraska.

Thanks!

Managers Name: _____

Team Name: _____

Please indicate by this Rating System: 5 = Excellent, 1 = Weak

Please write your comments in the spaces provided, and use the backside for additional comments if necessary.

1. Pre-tournament information: Did the instructions and memos provide you with an understanding of the required paperwork, format to be used at the tournament, your game schedule, hotel information, travel arrangements, and the schedule of events?

Rating (1-5): _____

a) What information do we need to improve on?

2. Hotel:

Rating (1-5): _____

a) Was the hotel acceptable?

b) Indicate any problems with the housing.

c) Any ideas for improvement of hotel check-in/check-out procedures?

3. When you arrived at the tournament site, your team was given a welcoming orientation.

Rating (1-5): _____

a) Were you made to feel welcome?

b) Did the covered information prove to be useful?

c) Were your questions answered satisfactorily?

d) Do you have any suggestions on how this might be improved?

4. Coaches Meetings:

Rating (1-5): _____

a) Were the coaches meetings informative and organized?

b) Were there any items missing from the meetings?

c) Any suggestions to change the format or time of meetings?

5 Ball Park:

Rating (1-5): _____

a) Did the Opening Session and Closing Session add to the excitement of the tournament?

b) What did you like and not like about the ballpark?

c) Did pre-game ceremonies add to the tournament?

d) Comment on playing surface, dugouts, and lights.

6. Umpiring:

Rating (1-5): _____

a) Do you feel the umpire crew did an excellent job?

b) Would you recommend any particular umpires for future tournament assignments?

c) If so, please provide their names.

7. General Hospitality:

Rating (1-5): _____

a) What did you like?

b) What can be improved upon?

c) Comment on Local Host and the Host Committee.

8. Comments about the Local Committee:

Rating (1-5): _____

a) Did the Local Committee have adequate volunteers?

b) Were local volunteers well informed and helpful?

c) Who on the local volunteer committee deserves special recognition?

9. Volunteer Staff (Tournament Director, Assistant Tournament Director and Official Scorekeeper):

Rating (1-5): _____

a) Did they provide a good and informative orientation?

b) Were they competent?

c) Were they friendly and helpful?

d) Did they communicate well?

e) Were they accessible?

10. Please add any final thoughts, comments or suggestions.

The American Legion's goal is to host a quality tournament. Any additional suggestions to improve the program would be appreciated. Please tell us what you liked and tell us what we can do to make our tournaments better.

Evaluation of Tournament Host Site (Short form)

Tournament Site: _____

Date: _____

Tournament Director's Name: _____

**Please complete this form and hand it to the Tournament Director prior to your departure.
Or: Mail to Department Nebraska.**

Thank you!

Condition of overall playing area: Please evaluate based on 1 (low) – 5 (high)

Field Conditions: before, during and after game	1	2	3	4	5
Field Markings	1	2	3	4	5
Dugout Conditions	1	2	3	4	5
Bullpen, Batting Cage	1	2	3	4	5
Bases-Performance and Safety	1	2	3	4	5
Batters Box	1	2	3	4	5
Pitcher's Mound	1	2	3	4	5
Lighting Quality	1	2	3	4	5
Infield Quality	1	2	3	4	5
Outfield Quality	1	2	3	4	5
Fence Quality and Safety	1	2	3	4	5
Fan Areas, Stands	1	2	3	4	5
Concession/Washrooms	1	2	3	4	5

Comments: _____
