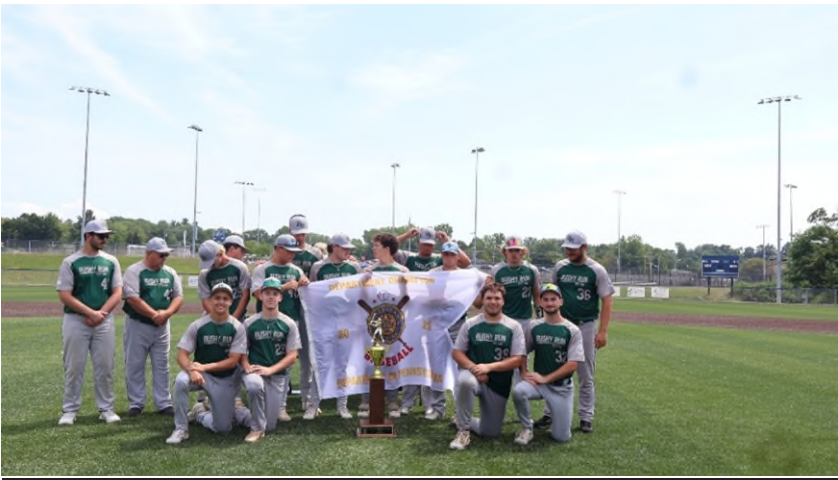


2026 Pennsylvania American Legion Senior & Junior Legion Rulebook



Bushy Run Post 260 2025 State Champions



Stripes and Strikes 2025 Senior State Runner-up



Back Mountain Post 672 2025 State Junior Legion Champions



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**2026 National American Legion and State Rule
Changes**

The Americanism Commission has approved the following rule changes for the 2026 American Legion Baseball season: Please refer to the rule within the national senior or junior rulebook for official language.

An electronic version of these rule books are available at:

<http://legion.org/baseball/resources> or

<https://www.palbaseball.com/page/show/5509264-forms>

***DESIGNATES STATE RULE CHANGES**

- * **Starting in 2026** Pennsylvania will use the National Rule for Bats as outlined in National Bat Rule 1B.

1.G. Courtesy Runners. Departments may use the courtesy runner rule for their respective American Legion Baseball program during regular and post season.

1. S. One-Way Communication. A coach may use a one-way electronic communication device to communicate with the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches. Coaches may not use electronic communication device(s) to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense. When using the electronic communication device, the coach cannot be outside the dugout/bench area. A tablet computer used for scorekeeping purposes only is permissible.

6. D. Dual Participation. “POINT OF EMPHASIS” The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Dual participation shall no way interfere with a player’s responsibility to his American Legion Baseball team. Once state tournament play has completely concluded and should there be open dates prior to team travel (August 3) to national regional tournaments, a player(s) may be granted permission to dual participate from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman. Any player participating in another sanctioned baseball game/tournament during the American Legion post-season tournament dates shall be ineligible from further post-season tournament play.
CLARIFICATION – Players attending military assignment, MLB-sanctioned invitation only event, player combine/evaluation of extended drills and/or game-like

scenarios events, or college of enrollment orientation workouts may be granted an exception on a case-by-case basis with proper documentation. Prior written approval from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman is required..

9.L Minimum Active Players. Teams competing in American Legion Baseball senior national tournaments (including state tournaments) must have nine players available for participation at a national tournament at all times. Senior teams that have fewer player available from their approved roster strength are permitted to bring up players registered on their affiliated Junior American Legion Baseball team roster to the senior team to approved roster strength not to exceed a total of 18 players. CLARIFICATION – If the senior team’s approved roster strength is 16 players, the team is allowed to only transfer enough junior players to a roster strength of 16 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 30. 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.

9.M Between Inning Time Limit. Between innings, teams have 120 seconds (or 150 seconds for a relief pitcher) to be ready for the first pitch (pitcher holding the ball and touching the pitcher’s plate and a batter standing in the box ready to hit). The 120 second clock (or 150 second clock for a relief pitcher) shall start when all defensive players have started to leave their positions after the last out has been made and stops when the umpire calls “Play” for the first pitch of the first batter of the next half-inning. 3rd base umpire will use a stop- watch if a clock is not available. If there are unusual circumstances that prevent either team from getting on or off the field, other common -sense delays, such as ceremonies or field maintenance delayed until players have had an opportunity to begin to move to their positions. If the offensive team is not ready within the 120 second or 150 second clock, the umpire shall call a strike. If the defense is not ready, a ball shall be awarded to the first

batter.

- * **National and PA Child Abuse Background Check –**
Effective Immediately: All Players 18 years of age or older or turning 18 during the season must start their background check no later than June 25. All Background Checks and training must be completed prior to the State Regional Tournaments in order for a player to be eligible for Playing at the State Regional and above. Any player not meeting this qualification will be disqualified from further participation in American Legion Baseball for the State and National playoffs.

MLB rule changes are not automatically adopted by ALB when introduced. A transition period will be observed to analyze, discuss, and vote to adopt or deny such changes. New rules will be considered on odd numbered years.

The following MLB rules have not been adopted for regular season or tournament play.

- 18-inch Bases rule 2.03 (if used-no penalty or forfeit)
- Limit the number of throws (pick-off attempts) to 1B
- Minimum Batters Faced Requirements rule 5.10(g)
- Ohtani Rule 5.11(b). ALB rule is DH for pitchers only
- Pitcher's Clock
 - a. Pitcher Delays rule 5.07(c) will be observed but not timed
 - b. 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 a "Ball"
- Mound Visits
 - a. Limitation on Number of Mound Visits per Game rule 5.10(m)
 - b. ALB will continue to follow the 2 visits per inning that requires a change of pitcher rule 5.10(l)

The rules printed herein shall apply to the Pennsylvania American Legion Senior League and Junior Legion. American Legion competition shall be played under rules set forth and

adopted by the American Legion Activities Committee. To be eligible to compete in the American Legion Baseball Program, all Leagues and Teams must abide by these rules. Failure to abide by these rules will result in immediate disqualification. All Leagues will also abide by the National American Legion Rulebook.

WE ARE PLAYING UNDER MAJOR BASEBALL LEAGUE RULES AND NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULES. Except as noted in this guide.

ALL ADULTS MUST COMPLETE A NATIONAL BACKGROUND CHECK THROUGH THE ORGANIZATION THAT IS SET UP BY THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. *SEE RULE 16 PENNSYLVANIA WILL USE PYS FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS AND FOR ABUSE TRAINING ONLY. USA BASEBALL TRAINING WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

THE CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

**I Will:
Keep the Rules,
Keep Faith with my Teammates,
Keep my Temper,
Keep myself Fit,
Keep a Stout Heart in Defeat,
Keep my Pride under in Victory,
Keep a Sound Soul, a Clean Mind, & a Healthy Body.**

Only good sportsmen of good character are the proper men to manage Legion Baseball teams. They must, by precept and example, keep constantly before the players, the true purpose of the American Legion Baseball Program. In other words, a Post Athletic Officer or Team Manager should not consider himself merely a coach with the main objective the winning of games. His big job is to keep uppermost in the minds of the players at all times, the citizenship lessons learned from participating in the program. Not every team can win championship honors, but

every player can win that which is of most importance - the spirit of fair play, loyalty, teamwork, obedience, gameness and democracy.

It shall be the responsibility of the sponsor of the team to see that his team, coach and manager are instructed in the code of sportsmanship prior to the start of each season and to certify that the Pennsylvania American Legion Baseball Rules have been read and explained to his team, manager and coaches.

It is the responsibility of the League President to instruct all team managers that both teams prior to the start of the game line up along the base paths and repeat the Code of Sportsmanship in unison. It is the responsibility of the home team to enforce this rule. Teams violating this rule are subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00), payable to the Director of Activities, and/or disqualification from the program.

2026 AGE ELIGIBILITY CHART



Senior & Junior American Legion Baseball 2026 Age Eligibility Chart

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Traditional grade in school	Birth Year
Age - 12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	Not Eligible	2014
Age - 13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	7 th Grade	2013
Age - 14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	8 th Grade	2012
Age - 15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	Freshman	2011
Age - 16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	Sophomore	2010
Age - 17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	Junior	2008
Age - 18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	Senior	2008
Age - 19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	College/HS	2007
Age - 20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	Not eligible	2006

Players born in 2007 or 2008, must play in the Senior Legion Baseball program.

Players (age 12 and under) born in 2014 and after are not eligible to play American Legion Baseball.

Players born in 2006 or before are no longer eligible to play American Legion Baseball.

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NO TEAM SHALL PARTICIPATE IN ANY GAME OR TOURNAMENT OUTSIDE THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ACTIVITIES AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GAME OR TOURNAMENT BEING PLAYED.

NO LEAGUE GAME SHALL BE POSTPONED OR RESCHEDULED TO ALLOW ANY TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN A NON-LEAGUE GAME OR TOURNAMENT. FORM AL#4 SHOULD BE COMPLETELY FILLED OUT INCLUDING HAVING ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES FOR THIS PURPOSE.

THE LEAGUE SHALL SUSPEND ANY MANAGER VIOLATING THIS RULE ACCORDING TO GUIDELINES SET UP.

- (A) The Regional or Sectional Director appointed by the Department Commander, in his respective area, shall be the official representative of the Director of Activities. They shall have full and complete authority to carry out the mandates of this program as prescribed by the Director of Activities and the Dept. Activities Committee.
- (B) All games shall be played under OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES as published by Major League Baseball, except as follows:

1. LIGHTNING & THUNDER 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.

- a. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during events.
- b. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby shelters.
- c. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - 1) When thunder is heard or a lightning bolt is seen within 8 miles, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
 - 2) Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of

lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.

- 3) For any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count, reset the clock and start another 30-minute count.
- d. If available, electronic detection devices should be used as additional tools to determine the severity of the weather. However, such devices should not be used as the sole source when considering terminating play.
- e. Hold periodic reviews for appropriate personnel.

2. All teams including managers and coaches must be fully uniformed alike for batting and infield practice and games.

No team shall go to any Championship Play-off or

Tournament without being fully uniformed. **No other**

baseball organizations emblems or insignia may appear on the uniform* An official American Legion Baseball

insignia, must be either silk screened or an embroidered

patch, and must be sewn on the left sleeve or left breast of the uniform shirt, or jacket that is worn over top of uniform shirt.

This includes all personnel in uniform (manager, coaches and players).

VIOLATION OF THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN THE REMOVAL OF THE OFFENDER OR OFFENDERS BY THE UMPIRE FROM FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN THE GAME WHEN DISCOVERED DURING THE GAME. THIS SHALL CAUSE THE TEAM TO BE FINED \$50.00 PER OFFENSE (NOT TO EXCEED \$100.00 PER GAME), SUCH FINE TO BE PAID AND VERIFIED AS PAID BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OR AN ASSISTANT AS SELECTED BY THE DIRECTOR BEFORE THE OFFENDERS MAY PARTICIPATE IN ANOTHER GAME AND THIS FEE TO BE SENT TO STATE HEADQUARTERS. IF ANY OFFENDER PARTICIPATES IN A GAME PRIOR TO THE FINE BEING PAID, THE GAME OR GAMES SHALL BE FORFEITED. IF THE OFFENSE OCCURS IN THE FINAL GAME OF THE SEASON, THE FINE SHALL BE PAID PRIOR TO THE OFFENDING TEAM PLAYING THE NEXT YEAR.

The insignia may be purchased from the American Legion Emblem Division, <https://emblem.legion.org/legion/legion-activities-programs/legion-baseball> at a cost of \$1.50 each; payment must accompany order. **Silkscreened patches must have approval** from the Legion state headquarters for the use of the emblem. The emblem usage permission form can be found at palbaseball.com under the resources tab. The front of the uniform shirt shall carry only lettering or wording that identifies the name of the Post, Town, Community or Organization sponsoring the team. Numbers may be included. No firm or company whose advertisement reflects the sale or use of alcoholic beverages, or tobacco products shall be permitted to display such advertising on team uniforms.

3. A number at least six (6) inches high must be carried on the back of the uniform shirt.
4. All managers, coaches and players must wear a full baseball uniform consisting of shirt, pants, cap, team hose and baseball shoes in any game. Persons in violation of this rule managers, coaches and players. Persons in violation of this rule will not be allowed to participate in the game and may be disqualified from further participation in the Pennsylvania American Legion Baseball program
5. The front of the uniform shirt shall carry only lettering or wording that identifies the name of the Post, Town, Community or Organization sponsoring the team. Numbers may be included. No firm or company whose advertisement reflects the sale or use of alcoholic beverages, or tobacco products shall be permitted to display such advertising on team uniforms.
6. . Bat Rule.
 - a. 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).
 - b. 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.

c. Any non-wood bat must have the BBCOR certification code marked on the barrel of the bat.

d. 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.

7. Players are required to wear a double-flapped, ear protection helmet, bearing NOCSAE stamp while batting, running bases or on deck. Batboys/girls must also wear a double flapped ear protective helmet while in the dugout/playing field area. Helmets must meet NOCSAE specifications and bear the NOCSAE stamp on outside of helmet.
 - a. Players not wearing the regulation helmet will be suspended from the game.
8. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, catchers, coaches or any person warming up the pitcher must wear a mask **while kneeling or crouching**. Any person refusing to do so, will be ejected from the game. **While positioned at home plate anyone throwing with the pitcher must wear a mask.**

Catchers are required to wear a NOCSOE approved safety helmet, skull caps, or hockey style masks. ***Catcher must also wear a NOCSOE certified chest protector for protection against Commotio Cordis.** Coaches are required to wear a safety helmet.

- a. Catchers are also required to wear a protective cup.
 - b. Any catcher's mask that does not have an extended throat protector of at least two (2) inches in length is required to have an attachable throat protector.
 - c. Umpires and tournament officials shall halt the game until full compliance with the rule.
9. 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.

10. No player may wear or have any object or equipment that will **reflect or draw a glare** while on the playing field.
11. The official baseball for American Legion Baseball games shall be the baseball adopted by the Department Activities Committee. The baseball adopted for the current year is the **Rawlings R100 PAL**, with the Official American Legion Baseball Logo and stamp with Pennsylvania on the ball and may be purchased through the PA legions exclusive Rawlings website. The official baseball must be in the hands of the Umpire-in-Chief at the start of the game in order to have the game counted in the official records. **UMPIRES SHALL NOT START A GAME UNLESS THE RULE IS COMPLIED WITH, IF NOT, THE GAME SHALL BE DECLARED A FORFEIT.**
12. Each team when on offense may be granted not more than one charged conference per inning to permit the coach or any of his team's personnel to confer with base runner and/or the batter. The umpire shall deny any subsequent offensive team request for charged conference.
13. Only registered players or the three certified adults in the uniform of the team are permitted on the coaching lines. The three adult coaches must be registered with the Department Director of Activities at the time that the players are certified. Only the certified players, field manager, coaches, batboys, scorekeeper and certified trainer shall be permitted to sit on the players' bench or in the dugout. (LEAGUE PLAY ONLY) Refer to Rule 10 for this rule in Tournament play.
14. **At all times a bona fide member of the Post should be officially in charge of the team as Business Manager**, except as noted in case of outside sponsorship listed in the National Guide.
15. All league games are 7 innings.
16. **Fake Tags are illegal.** A fake tag is an act by a defensive player without the ball that simulates a fake tag. A fake tag is considered obstruction.
17. **ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE IN ITS POSSESSION**

A PROPERLY SUPPLIED FIRST AID KIT FOR USE AT ALL BASEBALL GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS. If found that there is no First Aid Kit available within a team's dugout during a Regional or State tournament the team can be fined \$50.00 per violation by the Regional Director or State Activities Director at their discretion.

18. Only bats may be used in warming up in the on deck area or in any other location. Weighted bats, devices designed to attach to and remain part of the bat, such as weights or wind resistant foils, are permitted. Weighted pipes and other heavy paraphernalia are not permitted. Safety of other players and spectators is paramount. Unsafe devices cannot be used.

19. Courtesy runner and re-entry: courtesy runners may be used during the regular season and post season. They are only permitted for pitchers and catchers. Re-entry permits players to be substituted for and return to the game once, provided the player returns to the same spot in the batting order. Re-entry will be ALLOWED in **regular season only**.

20. One-Way Communication. A coach may use a one-way electronic communication device to communicate with the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches. Coaches may not use electronic communication device(s) to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense. When using the electronic communication device, the coach cannot be outside the dugout/bench area. A tablet computer used for scorekeeping purposes only is permissible.

21. Pitch Count Limits In any exhibition, regular league game, playoff or Regional and State Final games, no player may pitch more than 105 **pitches in a day**. **NOTE:** A pitcher is permitted to exceed 105 pitches to complete the current batter he is facing. A pitcher may not make more than two (2) appearances in any three (3) consecutive calendar day period.

*For a pitcher to be eligible to pitch in a 2nd game on the same day, he must throw less than 46 pitches in the first

game. A day is defined as 8am to 8am.

Required Rest Period (1-30 Pitches, No rest required), (31-45 Pitches, 1 Day), (46-60, 2 Days), (61-80, 3 Days), (81+, 4 Days).

NOTE: any team in violation of this rule will cause the game(s) to be forfeited in which the player illegally pitched.

- a. Visits to the mound:** Refer to rule 5.10 as it appears in the current issue of the official baseball rules as printed by Major League Baseball. **Exception:** Any pitcher may be removed as a pitcher and still remain in the game at another position. However, if a pitcher is removed automatically when the manager or coach makes two (2) trips to the mound in the same inning, that pitcher cannot return as a pitcher in that game. **Penalty for violating this rule:** Forfeiture of game: if a protest has been filed with the umpire in chief before the last out of game. **Note:** Rule 5.10 (m) **Mound visits per game** will not be observed.
- 22. 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.) * In the event blood is easily visible on the injured player's pants or jersey, the item must be changed.
- 23. 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. **a.** 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 will not be called.

- a) “On the ground” means either a head-first slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground.
- b) “Directly into a base” means the runner’s entire body (feet, legs, trunk and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.

Clarification

If a runner goes into a base standing up and does not make contact or alter the play of the defensive player, interference shall not be called.

Clarification

- a. If the runner goes into a base standing up and is safe or out, but makes contact with or alters the play of the defensive players, interference shall be called.
- b. 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.

Clarification

c. Actions by a runner are illegal and interference shall be called if:

- a. Contact occurs on top of the base as a result of a “pop-up slide.
- b. 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).
- c. The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder.
- d. The runner’s raised leg make contact higher than the fielder’s knee when in a standing position;
- e. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg; or
- f. 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-f

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 contest.

Clarification

If the bases are loaded with no outs, a double-play attempt is made, and interference is called, all other runners must return to their original bases.

24. COLLISIONS. The American Legion Baseball Committee is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions with the catcher at home plate, and with infielders at all bases. The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid collisions whenever possible.

a. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly **is in possession** of the ball, the umpire shall judge.

1. Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (could the runner have reached the base without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the base was blocked) or
2. Whether the runner actually was 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 other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

Approved 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.

Approved 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.

If the defensive player blocks the base (plate) or base line **clearly without the ball**, or is not in the immediate act of catching the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a **delayed dead ball** shall be called.

Approved Ruling 3: if the runner collides flagrantly, he shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.

MALICIOUS CONTACT: The Baseball Committee is concerned that some coaches may not have explained to their players that malicious contact is illegal. The majority of intentional collisions occur at home plate where the catcher is blocking the plate.

Runners should be instructed to slide directly to the plate, or away from the catcher, or to avoid making contact with the catcher especially when the defender is in possession of the ball. Any player who, **in the judgment of the umpire**, maliciously runs into another player is automatically ejected, and is declared out. Our umpires have been instructed that if there is any intentional and excessive force, or if there is any intent to injure another player, the offending player shall be removed from the game. Malicious contact penalty will be enforced whether committed by an **offensive** or defensive player

25. The American Legion requires protective screens to be in place on practice fields as well as in batting cages.

26. No team shall be required to play more than two games in one day. Playing days will begin at 8:00 A.M., local time. A suspended game completed on the following day will not count toward two (2) games in this rule. These teams can still play an additional two (2) full games.

RULE 2 - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

(A) American Legion baseball competition in 2026 is

open to players born on or after January 1, 2007. (A player, born in 2006 ARE NOT ELIGIBLE. Players born in 2014 ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

- (B) ALB Risk Management Policy. Per NEC Resolution No.17 October 2023: **All adult participants**, (coaches, managers, umpires, volunteers and players, 18 years of age or older) are required by Public Law 115-126, “Protecting Young Victims From Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017” to have adult abuse awareness training and background checks. This will establish if they are eligible to participate in national tournaments hosted by The American Legion.
- (C) Competition is open to amateurs only. To be an amateur, a player must not:
1. Receive money, favors, or gratuities for playing baseball.
 2. Play with or against anyone who receives money, favors or gratuities.
 3. Accept money or favors for reimbursement for time lost at work while playing or for expense incurred while playing.
 4. Participate in an All Star Baseball Game not approved by the Director of Activities. (Note - District, Counties, Posts or Sections planning All Star games must contact the Director of Activities for approval.)
 5. Accept directly or indirectly, or agree to accept money or favors (also his parents, trustees, guardians, etc.), offered by anyone for his baseball services, past, present or future.
 6. Try out with any professional team, without written permission of his coach, athletic chairman or Post Commander. (Major, Minor League Rule 3 (I) govern try- outs and merits of contracting with professional clubs.)
 7. **Any player who signs a professional contract will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the season and may be replaced on National Form #1 by an eligible player.***
- (D) An American Legion player may render service to another team,

other than Legion team, providing permission is granted in writing by his Manager and the Regional Director. This must be filed with the Director of Activities' office, providing it does not interfere with a scheduled American Legion game.

1. **Any Legion player who is double rostered with any other baseball team must be present at his Legion team game above and beyond any other baseball game.** Failure to comply with this will result in a penalty as established by the individual League including possible disqualification of all parties involved. Teams who have players playing for other teams that have not been granted permission by submitting of the double form (AL 5 Rev.19) and the indication of an asterisk on their rosters will also result in a penalty as established by the individual league including possible disqualification of all parties involved. Double Rosters are not valid during post-season play.
2. Form #AL-5 is provided for this purpose and can be obtained from the Regional Director.
 - a) Dual participation shall in no way interfere with a player's responsibility to his American Legion Baseball Team. The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport.

(E) Players age must be verified by means of a **LEGAL RECORD OF BIRTH** or A **VALID PENNSYLVANIA DRIVERS LICENSE OR ID THAT MEETS REAL ID REQUIREMENTS.**

1. Record of birth must be by certificate bearing the appropriate seal or a certified copy of such from the Bureau of Vital Statistics or Department of Health or an accepted certified birth recording agency of that state. Official Department of Commerce certificates are acceptable. **Passports are acceptable ID.**
2. In case of foreign birth, the player will present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service or by the Department of State, which shows the birth

date of the bearer. Official birth certificates issued by a foreign country are acceptable when accompanied by an English translation. Military birth records (DD forms) are acceptable.

3. A properly notarized copy of that portion of legal adoption papers showing the place and date of a player's birth shall be acceptable in cases of foster parents.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE PROPER CERTIFICATION

If the birth occurred in Pennsylvania and you do not have the proper Certification of Birth, the certification shown may be obtained by an eligible applicant from your local office of vital records.

The following ARE NEVER ACCEPTABLE AS LEGAL BIRTH RECORDS.

1. Baptismal certificate
2. Hospital certificates or records
3. School certificates or records
4. Copies of birth certificates



- Any team using these records will cause the player and/or team to be disqualified from further competition for one (1) year and the games a player participated in be forfeited.

(F) March 31st of the current year is the date for establishing legal

residence within the State and attendance in school. ***The address used on the parent's tax returns will be used to verify residence.** Any player, whose parents or court appointed guardian moves and establishes a new permanent residence after March 31st, may submit a written request to play with a team of their choice. This request, in writing, must be accompanied by the parents or guardian's affidavit that the move is permanent and listing the previous and present addresses. It must be filed and approved by the Director of Activities. No requests will be accepted after the current year roster has been turned into the Sectional Director.

- (G) **No Senior Legion Player** can brought down to an affiliated Junior Legion Team. Junior eligible players may participate on both teams and they must have been properly dual rostered in order to play in the playoffs. See Rule 6 section E-1 of the National Rule Books.

RULE 3 - TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION

- (A) Each team must file an application for entry plus official entry fee together with the official insurance application and insurance fee, plus team liability application and liability fee with the via the online Registration portal which will be validated by the Regional Director, no later than midnight **May 1st** of the current year. **Teams that do not make the deadline will have to pay a \$200.00 late fee.**
- 1) It is compulsory that all American Legion baseball teams registered in the American Legion Baseball Program have required insurance coverage, this includes health and accidental and liability insurance. This must be purchased through the American Legions agent of record, which is K&K Insurance
- (B) The official state entry fee for Senior Legion Teams is Three hundred twenty-five dollars (**\$325.00**) per team. National fee is one hundred twenty-five (**\$125.00**). For all Junior Legion Program Teams the official entry fee is three hundred seventy dollars (**\$370.00**) National Fee is (**\$125.00**).
- (C) All teams upon **INITIAL** payment shall receive notification

of a franchise. This franchise is to protect their rights in the respective communities for the recruiting of players. Once a team receives a franchise it is in effect until it is revoked or the team is disbanded, without notification. Each year, upon team's payment of entry fee and insurance payment, they will receive a receipt form and this form will automatically renew the franchise. Each league shall have the power to change existing franchises whenever a new team is admitted into that league or to provide equal zones among their current team members. It was mandated by the Department Executive Committee that when a new team enters a league, when there is a Legion Post within the zone, that the Legion Post is given the opportunity to sponsor the new team. If the Legion Post does not wish to sponsor the team they must sign off on the team in a letter to the league, which will be forwarded to the Activities Director. The team may then be awarded to an outside sponsor, subject to approval by, and under the control of, the appropriate Department Baseball Official or Committee and under regulations promulgated by the Department.

- (D) Each team must register on line with the National Office, the team certification (National Form #1 and #2). The form #1 must be filled out on line. All Forms must be verified by the Sectional Director. He shall, after checking the forms, turn them over to the Regional Director who will sign and date them, no later than **twenty-four (24) hours before the first scheduled game of each team.** All Forms must be in the hands of the Activities Director no later than June 20th of the current year. Any team failing to comply with this rule will not be allowed to participate in league competition during the current year. Exception to this rule will be granted **ONLY** to those teams who have players involved in P.I.A.A. baseball playoffs. That registration closing date will be forty-eight (48) hours after their final P.I.A.A. baseball playoff game. No roster changes may be made on the National Form #1 after submission to the National Office. **Online rosters must be submitted @ baseball.legion.org 24 hours prior to the start of a team's regular season play.**

- (E) No team may carry more than one (1) Post on the team Certificate of Entry/Franchise Form as team sponsor.
- (F) No American Legion team may have more than 18 registered players, once the National Form #1 is registered with the Department. Each team must be registered by the Department closing date.
1. In cases of death (**or a season ending injury**) a player may be replaced on a National Form #1. A doctor's medical excuse is required for season ending injuries.
 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 National Form #1.
- (G) All players must be under contract. A National Form #2 must be signed and submitted to the Sectional Director for EACH PLAYER on the roster for the current year. **Both sides** of the FORM 2 must be completed. Each contract shall be in effect for the player's current year's eligibility in their respective program. When a Junior Legion player becomes eligible for the Senior Pennsylvania American Legion Baseball program he must complete a new contract form. The Team Manager for his particular team must retain the original copy of the contract. A legal record of birth must accompany the contract for each player when it is submitted to the Sectional Director for verification. Birth Certificates will be returned to the team manager following certification. Teams not having completed correct rosters and contracts by the required time shall be disqualified immediately and all games in which the disqualified player participated shall be forfeited.
- (H) It is mandatory that **ALL** players fill out a **FORM 2**, listing **ALL INFORMATION** requested. **The Team Manager will retain the original form #2 and is required to have it at all games.** From this contract each player will be issued an American Legion Baseball Identification Card. This card will act as an Identification Card for the remainder of his career. A legal record of birth registration must be presented with

each form. Each contract will be verified by the Sectional and or Regional Director before being submitted to Activities Director.

- (I) **Dual Participation.** “*POINT OF EMPHASIS*” The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Dual participation shall no way interfere with a player’s responsibility to his American Legion Baseball team. Once state tournament play has completely concluded and should there be open dates prior to team travel (August 3) to national regional tournaments, a player(s) may be granted permission to dual participate from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman. Any player participating in another sanctioned baseball game/tournament during the American Legion post-season tournament dates shall be ineligible from further post-season tournament play. **CLARIFICATION** – Players attending military assignment, MLB-sanctioned invitation only event, player combine/evaluation of extended drills and/or game-like scenarios events, or college of enrollment orientation workouts may be granted an exception on a case-by-case basis with proper documentation. Prior written approval from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman is required.

RULE 4 - CONDUCT

- (A) Any player, coach, or official who refuses to stand still and at attention during the playing of the national anthem is subject to permanent suspension.
- (B) No Legion baseball coach or any volunteer who is affiliated with travel ball is allowed to recruit players from his or another legion team to participate in any travel ball team. The penalty for such action is permanent expulsion from PA American Legion Baseball
- (C) Any manager, coach or player who conducts himself in an ungentlemanly or un-sportsmanlike manner in the opinion of the Director of Activities or his Representative (which would reflect discredit to his program) while participating in any American Legion Baseball competition, may be removed from further participation.

If there is an altercation between two players and the so

called third player or any other players leave their position, the dugout, bullpen or any other area to enter the altercation, that in itself will cause that player or players to be immediately ejected and they will be disciplined severely. This also applies to coaches if their intentions are for any other reason than to help break up the altercation will be dealt with upon a written report from the umpires.

For violation of this section, person or persons involved shall immediately be ejected from the game, immediately suspended pending a written report of the incident and a hearing on the same. Violators will be penalized for their actions; such penalties could lead to the removal from further participation in the Baseball program.

- (D)** No player, coach, manager, or any party associated with any American Legion Baseball Team shall ride, abuse, heckle or make any uncomplimentary remarks whatsoever to any opposing player or team official. Any individual violating these regulations' shall be ejected immediately from the game.
- (E)** Any player, coach, manager, or party accompanying a team will be suspended for the remainder of the game from the time of rule infraction if they:
1. Use profane language in any manner.
 2. Make any unnecessary gesture in protesting any umpire's decision (only the team captain or coach may ask for a clarification of a rule, but never argue).
 3. Throw bats or any other equipment.
 4. Make unnecessary gestures to fans or opposing players.
 5. Resort to unnecessary roughness on the playing field.
 6. Hazing or any form of initiation will not be tolerated. The league will set penalties for this purpose.
- (F)** The use of any form of tobacco, vape, or e-cigarette by a player, coach, manager or umpire while on the playing field is prohibited. Any violation of this rule will cause the

individual and the team manager to be removed from the game. For the purpose of this rule, dugouts and/or player benches and bullpens will also be considered part of the playing field. The manager will not be removed if an umpire commits the infraction.

- (G)** Any player, manager, coach ejected by an umpire from any game, must leave the confines of the ballpark.
- (H)** Aerosol, gas, battery or electric operated air horns or other noisemakers will be prohibited at all games. Fans or players who operate such devices shall be ordered by the home team to cease such operation immediately or face removal from the ballpark.
- (I)** The home team shall be responsible for proper fan discipline at all games. If the home team refuses their responsibility in any game, the umpire may cause the game to be forfeited.
- (J)** Any person who has been charged with a crime which constitutes a misdemeanor or felony under 18 PA C.S. (“The Crimes Code”) or Act 64 (“The Controlled Substance Drug Device and Cosmetic Act”) or similar statute or another State’s criminal statutes, shall be suspended by the Activities Director or his representative pending the outcome of legal proceedings.

 1. Upon conviction or a plea of guilty or a plea of no contest, the managers, coaches and officials will be dropped from the list of approved managers, coaches and officials.
 2. Upon acquittal, dismissal of the charges, or entry into, and successful completion of an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (A.R.D) program, the managers, coaches or officials upon application to the director or representative may be reinstated, may reapply, and may be reinstated by either the director or his representative. If not reinstated they shall be notified of the opportunity for a hearing by the director or the representative, to determine whether he is to be reinstated or to remain suspended from the list

of approved managers, coaches and officials.

3. The Activities Director or his representative may suspend managers, coaches and officials who will not co-operate with the American Legion program, or who pursue a course of action where in the judgment of the Activities Director or his representative is detrimental to the welfare of the program; or members where of - who conduct themselves off or on the field in a manner not conducive to the best interest of the American Legion Baseball program or who will not comply with the regulations pertaining to the rules of the American Legion Baseball program.
4. Any player who has been charged with a crime which constitutes a misdemeanor or felony under 18 Pa. C.S.A. (The Crimes Code) or Act 64 (The Controlled Substance Drug Device and Cosmetic Act), or similar Statute or another State's Criminal Statute, or any juvenile player who shall have been petitioned to Juvenile Court for an act which would constitute a crime of a misdemeanor or felony under 18 Pa. C.S.A., (The Crimes Code) or Act 64 (The Controlled Substance Drug Device and Cosmetic Act), shall be suspended by the Activities Director or his representative pending the outcome of the legal proceedings.”

A.) Upon conviction of a plea of guilty or a plea of no contest, the player will be dropped from the list of approved players.

B.) Upon acquittal, dismissal of the charges, or entry into, and successful completion of an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (A.R.D.) program, the player or players upon application to the Director or representative shall be reinstated or reapply, may either be reinstated by the director or his representative, or if not reinstated shall be notified or the opportunity for a hearing by the director or the representative, to determine whether he is to be reinstated or to remain suspended from the list of players.

C.) The Activities Director or his representative may

suspend players who will not co-operate with the American Legion Program who pursue a course of action where in the judgment of the Activities Director or his representative that is detrimental to the welfare of the program or members where of who conduct themselves off or on the field in a manner not conducive to the best interest of the American Legion Baseball Program or who will not comply with the regulations pertaining to the rules of The American Legion Baseball program.

RULE 5 - RECRUITING AREAS

1. The area from which a team may recruit its players is a zone assigned that team by a Committee of not less than five (5) individuals selected by the league President or Chairman. **At no time will the total population of any team's recruiting area exceed 70,000 people according to the latest available United States Census or it must follow zoning based on schools with a total population of the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade of the base school and its affiliated schools of 7500.** All zones must be approved by the League, Sectional and Regional Director. Zoning of cities with 100,000 population or more shall be established by the Director of Activities. Junior Legion teams will have the same boundaries or tracts as the Senior Legion team in their league. Teams will not exceed League boundaries or population limits. When a new Junior Legion team is formed where a Senior Legion team exists and the open territory had been taken by adjoining Junior Legion team(s), they will relinquish that territory or tracts to the new team.
 - (A) A player must play for the team recruited from his legal residence. His legal residence is that of his parents or court appointed guardian as of March 31st of the current year.

NOTE: A player who attends a school in a location other than of his legal residence, as either a commuting or residential student, must still play for the team recruiting from his legal residence as defined in the Pennsylvania American Legion Baseball Guide. If you live in Pennsylvania, you

will play in Pennsylvania.

- (B) Once a player signs a contract with a given team, he is the property of that team until his eligibility is completed. If the parents or guardian should move to another residence within the state or if zoning in the player's area should change, the player has the option to continue with the original team or to sign a new contract with the team in the new area or zone in which he now resides. However, he must do so in writing to the Sectional Director designating this preference as to which team he desires to play with before the start of the season and a copy of the letter sent to the Activities Director.

EXCEPTIONS

- 1) Players through no fault of their own, unable to complete their eligibility because the Post they last played for, does not sponsor a team, may compete for the team nearest their parents or guardian's legal residence. If eligible to do so under enrollment limitations specified in these rules. Written permission for such competition must be obtained from the Regional Director prior to the National Form #1 being turned over to the State Activities Director. National Team Declaration Form #76 must be signed by the Regional Director and accompany Form #1 for approval by the State Activities Director. A photo copy of Form #76 granting permission shall be given to the Sectional Director, League Chairman, and Team Manager by the Regional Director granting permission for the player to compete, and the original Form #76 must be filed at National Headquarters.
- 2) College and University students, or players not in school, unable to complete their eligibility with the American Legion baseball team for which they played last while in high school because of a formal change in their parent's or guardian's legal residence may

compete for the team nearest that legal residence, and his legal residence is that of his parent's or legal guardian. Written permission for such competition must be obtained from the Director of Activities prior to June 1 of this year and copy of the written permission must be filed with National Headquarters by this date.

- (C) If recruiting is done crossing boundary lines without permission of the Regional Director, from where the player resides, the player shall be expelled and all games player participated in shall be forfeited.
- (D) If the official residence is altered for a player in order to enable him to participate by playing on a team in another area, the player and the entire team using the player shall be declared ineligible.
- (E) For the purpose of this rule, a player's legal residence is determined by his parent's permanent and legal residence as of March 31 of the current year.
 - 1. Should one parent of the player be deceased, his legal residence shall be his surviving parents' permanent and legal residence. That player must declare in writing the team of his choice and file that decision with the Sectional Director prior to the submission of the National Form #1 and a copy of that decision shall be sent by the Sectional Director to the Director of Activities. That decision is final and valid for the remainder of the player's eligibility.
 - 2. In the event a player's parents are divorced, that player may play for a team of either parent's legal and permanent domicile provided: the acceptable address is the address he resides at on March 31st.
 - (a) The player must declare, in writing, the team of his choice and file that

declaration with the Department Activities Director prior to the Department closing date. The player's declaration shall be final and valid for the remainder of the player's eligibility.

3. A player's domicile shall be his parents, or permanent court-appointed guardians, permanent and legal domicile.
 - (a) Temporary guardianship does not apply unless a court having jurisdiction over such matters has determined the parents to be incapable of supervision and care until the player reaches the age of majority (18 years of age).
 - (b) Emancipated college or university players are required to play for the team nearest their parent's domicile or for the team for whom that they last played. The American Legion does not allow emancipated players to be "free agents".
4. Should a situation arise not covered by the prior provisions of this rule, the Director of Activities will, in his sole discretion, determine the player's legal residence for the purpose of his participation in the American Legion Baseball program. In rendering his decision, the Director of Activities may confer with Sectional and Regional Directors whose sections and/or regions appear involved.
5. In the event that both parents are deceased or incapable of caring for and supervising of the player during minority, the player's residence will be determined by the domicile of the permanent legal guardian

appointed by the courts having jurisdiction to make such an appointment.

(F) Waiver: If a player is unable to participate with his regularly assigned team, the player may play for team nearest to his parent's legal residence. Said player must have, attended at least two (2) team tryouts before final team selections were made, according to the team manager,

1. The waiver shall be good for the year of issue only. Upon completion of the waiver year, the player must return to his home team and try out again. If he is cut, again the player will have to be waived again.
2. All waivers must be completed and signed by the player, current team manager, and League President being waived from and accepting team manager, League President and Regional Directors with final approval being granted by the Director of Activities and a copy must be attached to the roster when submitted to the Regional Director.
3. Waiver forms can be obtained from the Regional Director. No other forms or letters will be accepted.
4. No team shall cut or waive any player from their zoned area, and then take a player or players on waivers from another zone.
5. Zones must be adjacent to each other.
6. Waivers are permitted only when the combined enrollment of the two schools is less than 7500. (High School Enrollment)
7. If a manager denies a waiver, the player has the right to appeal to the Sectional Director and/or the Regional Director in writing and their decision will be final.

(G) All teams shall have two or more publicly announced

tryouts. Either through the School, local newspaper, or team/league website. Managers will have to prove announcements and provide sign-up sheets. For Junior Legion Players the player will only be able to double roster with the Senior Legion Team that their parents' residence has been zoned to.

Q. A player must be signed to an American Legion Baseball Contract

A. Yes. However, should the community in which he resides organize an American Legion Baseball team, then the player involved shall determine which team he desires to play with, and he should forward his choice in writing to the Sectional Director in charge of the program in that area and the Sectional Director shall forward a copy to the Regional Director and the Director of Activities.

Q. May state lines be crossed?

A. Yes. No player residing outside the state of Pennsylvania shall be permitted to participate in the American Legion Baseball program unless approval is granted in writing by the Activities Director and the Baseball Chairman of the state involved.

Q. Is it permissible for a Junior Legion Baseball player to participate in Senior American Legion Baseball?

A. Yes. For those American Legion Baseball programs that have affiliated senior and junior teams, junior eligible players may participate on both teams. However senior eligible players may not participate on a junior team. Those eligible junior players may appear in an affiliated senior team game provided the total number of players in such senior game does not exceed 18 players.

RULE 6 - LEAGUE RULE

(A) Any League in direct violation of any rule that appears in this guide or approves any rule with the intent to circumvent any of these rules will, at the discretion of

the Director of Activities, upon consultation with the respective Sectional and Regional Director, cause the League's current year Champion to be disqualified from Regional and State Competition.

- (B) All Leagues are required to have a constitution and by-laws** governing team's entry requirements into the League, election of officers including the length of individual terms and various committees needed to successfully operate their respective League. **The League may also include such rules and regulations that are not in conflict with the rules printed in this book.**
- (C) All zoning must be completed on or before March 31 of each year. The zoning must be approved by a majority vote of the League. ALL AREAS WITHIN EACH LEAGUE MUST BE ZONED. THERE SHALL BE NO OPEN AREAS.** Any league having open areas will not be allowed to compete in Championship competition.

On or before March 31 of each year, each League shall submit to the Sectional Director, Regional Director and the Director of Activities, a detailed map showing the zoned areas of each team within that League. Each zoned area shall be colored, using a different color for each team and clearly marked with name of team. Zones may be changed yearly **BEFORE** the new season begins, however, each time zones are changed a new map properly outlined must be sent to the aforementioned directors. Any league failing to comply will not be allowed to enter State competition.

- (D) Any team appeal concerning a zone decision by the League MUST be acted upon according to Rule 8.**
- (E) Teams in order to be eligible for Championship playoffs must have participated in a nine (9) team League or more and have played at least a twelve (12) game Legion Baseball schedule during the current season.**
- (F) All Leagues must report their current or newly elected officers and Bylaws to the Sectional Director, Regional Director and Director of Activities no later than March 31.**
- (G) It is compulsory that Leagues utilize only those umpires officially registered with the Director of Activities into their**

respective League games. Any league failing to do so will not be allowed to have their Champion advance to State competition.

- (H) Each league shall report the name of their Championship team going to the Senior Regional Tournament to the Activities Director and Regional Director by **July 14, 2026**. **THERE SHALL BE NO EXCEPTIONS**. Leagues shall report the teams going to the Junior Legion Regional Tournament to Activities Director, Regional Director and Sectional Director by **July 9, 2026**. Leagues not meeting this deadline will not be allowed to participate in Regional or State Final Playoffs.
- (I) Leagues are required to have ten (10) enrolled or more teams enrolled in order to be considered to have two (2) teams entered into their respective Regional Tournament. In the event a region does not have enough leagues or teams per league to follow this rule, the participation per league will be **at the discretion of the region's director** with final approval from the activities director.
 - 1. When a team hosts their respective Regional Tournament the league of which the host team is a member, will be allowed only one additional team to be entered into that Regional Tournament.
 - 2. Some league champions with less than ten (10) teams in their respective leagues may be required to participate in a playoff with a league Champion of another league to determine who will advance to the Regional tournament.
- (J) Teams petitioning to leave a league **MUST HAVE** approval from the current league and the final decision must be approved by the regional director when applicable.

RULE 7 - AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMISSION

Each league shall be required to form an American Legion Baseball Commission in accordance with the following rules prior to the start of the current seasons.

- (A) The commission shall consist of five (5) individuals, not members of the League, but knowledgeable in the rules of baseball and the American Legion Baseball Rules.
 - 1. People to serve on this commission may be former Major League or American Legion baseball players, civic leaders, clergy, etc.
- (B) The Commission members shall be appointed by the League President with the approval of the League membership.
- (C) The decisions of this commission are binding upon the League. Decisions of the commission may be appealed to the Regional Director as provided for in the Pennsylvania Rule Guide. **In any instance, the appeal or protest shall begin with this commission. The Regional Director will not act on any appeal, which was not first brought before this commission.**
- (D) Members who no longer wish to serve on the commission must resign by written resignation to the League President. Members who absent themselves for two (2) meetings of the commission may be replaced by the League President at the third meeting of the commission. Members of the commission, who resign or are replaced, must be replaced by a person meeting the same qualifications as listed in Paragraph 1.
- (E) The following persons may not serve as members of the commission:
 - 1. Any coach, manager or representative of a member team within the league.
 - 2. The League President or Chairman.
 - 3. Any member of the State Activities Committee.
- (F) After the five (5) members of the commission have been appointed or elected, they shall from their own members elect a Chairman and Secretary.
- (G) Three members shall constitute a quorum.

RULE 8 - PROTEST AND APPEALS

- (A) **All protests and/or appeals** must be submitted by the

protesting team or player in writing and presented to the League Baseball Commission **within twenty-four (24) hours** through the League President or Chairman.

1. After the game is played in which a protest is lodged by one of the two teams involved in the game. Any protest in this situation shall only be acted upon by the respective League Baseball Commission. Their decision SHALL BE FINAL.
2. After a vote is taken on any non-playing situations at a League meeting.

(B) Any protest pertaining to Paragraph A-2 as printed above shall only be acted upon by the respective League Baseball Commission and must be accompanied with **two hundred-fifty dollar (\$250.00)** certified check or money order. **This fee will not be returned**

(C) If the decision of the League Baseball Commission on a **non- playing situation ONLY** is not accepted by the team issuing the appeal, said team **MUST** within twenty-four (24) hours after the decision is rendered by the aforementioned Commission, appeal said decision to the Regional Director in writing containing all the necessary facts and accompanied by a fee of three hundred dollars (**\$300.00**), certified check or money order. **THIS FEE WILL NOT BE RETURNED.** The team or teams involved in the appeal may be present at the hearing when and where called by the Regional Director. The Appeals Committee shall consist of the Regional Director, Sectional Vice Chairman and a League President or Chairman or Section Director from another League.

(D) If the decision of the appeal hearing conducted by the Regional Director is not accepted by a team, the following shall prevail:

1. Within twenty four (24) hours from the time decisions of the Appeals Committee is issued, a team may appeal said decision to the Director of Activities. Such appeal may be by email or Fax and shall incorporate the precise point or points of

contention, which are the basis for the appeal and be accompanied by a fee of **four hundred dollars (\$400.00)** by certified check or money order. **This Fee will not be returned. NO APPEAL SHALL BE HONORED WHICH IS NOT FILED WITHIN THE FOREGOING TIME LIMIT.**

2. The Appeal Board shall be composed of: The Director of Activities, and 2 Regional Directors from different regions.
3. All appeals filed under Paragraph D shall be directed to the Director of Activities, 800 N. Front St., Wormleysburg, PA 17043.
4. The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and conclusive. The concurrence of a majority of the members of the Appeal Board shall constitute the final determination of the board. There shall be no more appeals through the Department.
5. No appeal shall be considered by this Appeal Board until aforementioned procedures of this rule under Paragraph A, B and C have been exhausted, as certified in writing by the individual in charge of said hearing.
6. **All fees for all hearings are non-refundable.**
7. The Department Activities Committee shall have the power to disqualify, suspend or remove any Manager, Coach, Player or Team violating any of these rules or other rules established within their jurisdiction. If such a situation arises, the Sectional Director in concurrence with the Regional Director shall have the authority to disqualify the entire team and the games won will be forfeited.

RULE 9 - ALL-STAR GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS

- (A) **ALL DISTRICTS, COUNTY, LEAGUES OR POSTS WHO ARE PLANNING TO HOLD AN ALL STAR GAME OR TOURNAMENT MUST GET WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ACTIVITIES AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE SUCH EVENT MAY BE**

SCHEDULED.

Q. What is the penalty for violation of Rule 9?

A. Each team sponsor or manager involved will be fined **twenty- five dollars (\$25.00)** and each league official will be fined **sixty dollars (\$60.00)**. Any team or players participating in an All-Star Game or Tournament not authorized by Department Activities Director, shall be suspended from further participation for a period of **two (2) years**.

(B) No tournament or All-Star Game shall be played within a fifty (50) mile radius during league, county, inter-district or State Playoffs on the same day.

(C) No Legion Team has to play in any baseball game while one or more of its players are scheduled to play in a League or Post Season Game on the same date.

(D) No regularly scheduled League game (s) may be postponed in order for a member team to participate in a non- state sponsored Tournament All-Star or exhibition game.

RULE 10 - TOURNAMENTS

(A) REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

1. The Department Activities Committee may prescribe such rules for the playing of Regional and State Final Tournament games as it considers necessary.
2. The Regional Tournaments and Final Championship game will be played in the community selected by the Department Activities Director.
3. Each team upon arrival in the Tournament city shall post with the Director, a **five hundred dollar (\$500.00)** check in the Regional and State Finals as a forfeit and/or damage fee. Should there be any damage, the cost will be deducted from the deposit and the funds remaining will be returned. Any team entered in the Tournament that forfeits a game will be disqualified from that Tournament immediately and forfeit their five hundred dollar (**\$500.00**) deposit.
4. Each team not to exceed eighteen (18) players must be

accompanied by at least two (2) certified adults who will be responsible for the conduct of the players both on and off the field at all times and see that they return promptly to their homes after being eliminated from the Tournament.

THE CONDUCT OF THE ENTIRE TEAM IS THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE REGISTERED TEAM MANAGER.

- a. The manager shall instruct his team as to the rules made by the committee (both written and verbal) concerning the conduct of the team while in the Championship City.
 - b. Specific conduct rules concerning activities in the housing area (both written and verbal) must be strictly enforced.
 - c. Any breach of the conduct rules will result in the disqualification of the entire team, and the team may be required to vacate the housing. Also, may lead to suspension of the manager from further involvement in Pennsylvania American Legion Baseball.
5. All Regional and State Tournaments will be scheduled on a two- game loss elimination format weather permitting.
6. All State Finals and Regional Tournament games will be played according to Rule 7.01, and 7.02 of the Official Baseball Rules with the following exceptions: Games shall consist of 7 innings. Games called because of darkness or rain before 7 innings have been completed shall be called a suspended game and shall be played from the point of suspension. The game shall be considered suspended and picked up the next day or the following day after that from the point of suspension.
- (a). The pitcher will be charged for pitches pitched on the first day. Appropriate rest is required as per Rule 1(19).
 - (b). A suspended game completed on the following day will not count toward two (2) games in Rule 1. These teams can still play an additional two (2) full games.
7. The use of unlimited substitution will not be permitted.
8. **The adult Team Manager will deal directly with the**

Tournament Committee on all questions pertaining to tournament protest, etc. for a decision by the Tournament Committee and this decision is to be decided on immediately before play progresses. A protest will be settled on the field and no appeals will be allowed.

9. The Director of Activities shall decide the number of umpires needed to successfully conduct a tournament. These umpires shall be members of their respective Umpire Associations.
10. Suitable trophies will be awarded in each tournament at the discretion of the Director of Activities.
11. Teams are required to return to their homes immediately following elimination in the State Finals and **must vacate Tournament city no later than 1 1/2 hours** after being eliminated.
12. Admission fee to be charged at all Tournament games is recommended.
13. Any player, coach or manager suspended from a Regional or State Championship tournament game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct must report to the Tournament Director before being allowed to return to the game.
14. A coin toss will determine the home and visiting team. The winner of the toss will be the home team and will use the third base dugout.

EXCEPTIONS:

- a. The host team in a tournament will use its regular dugout and bench regardless of home or visitor.
 - b. A team that has played their previous game on that same field on the same day will use the same dugout regardless of home or visitor; however, if the host team is involved exception 1 above will take precedence.
15. Any team that qualifies to advance to a Regional Tournament, upon qualifying is committed to advancing throughout the Regional, State and National Tournaments as long as that team continues to qualify to advance.

a. This commitment must be made in writing by all concerned upon the teams' qualifying for post season play.

b. **Any team that refuses to advance, at any level for which they have qualified may forfeit their franchise.**

1. **A team may, with justifiable reason, choose not to participate in post season play beyond the league level. This decision must be made in writing by all concerned before the date listed in this Guide for leagues to declare participants in the Regional Tournaments.**

2. The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Dual participation shall in no way interfere with the player's responsibility to his American Legion Baseball team. Once the state post-season tournament play has begun, the State Chairman/Activities Director cannot grant permission for dual participation. Any American Legion Baseball player missing any game of an American Legion post-season shall be ineligible from further post season play. Players attending military assignments, MLB Sanctioned invitation-only events, State invitation-only events or honors, or college enrollment orientation workouts may be granted an exception on a case-by-case basis with proper documentation. Prior written Approval from the Legion Baseball Committee chairman is required.

16. 10 Run Rule: **All regional and state tournaments shall utilize a 10 run rule after five innings, unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 4 1/2 innings.**

(B) REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

1. **A Regional Director, Sectional Director or Vice Chairman** will be assigned to be in charge of each Regional Tournament to act in the Activities Director's behalf. From tournament funds, he shall receive expenses consisting of Federal Mileage rate per mile from his home to the Tournament City, \$20.00 per day for meals, all telephone calls made pertaining to the Tournament and if necessary,

lodging for the duration of the Tournament. A staff will be assigned to work with the Tournament Director. A schedule will be provided and shall be followed as closely as possible except where fields must be changed for crowd control or ground conditions.

2. An American Legion Baseball Identification card, **passport or Birth Certificate** and the Player Contract Form ALB#2 (team copy) for each player listed on the roster must be presented to the Regional Tournament Committee upon arrival in the tournament city.
3. There shall be **two (2) glossy color photographs that measure 5" x 7" or 8 X 10, in order of appearance** of the entire team, all uniformed alike, listing the names of the players on the back and signed by the team manager to verify the player's identity. The acceptable photographs must be turned into the Regional Tournament Committee. The photographs will not be returned as it must be sent to the State Tournament site, by the Tournament Director, immediately after all teams have registered.
4. In REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS ONLY, **all profits after expenses raised because of the Regional Tournament shall be split, with the Department receiving 50% and the sponsoring organization receiving 50% unless otherwise noted on the contract and the accounting to be forwarded to the Department Activities Director 15 days after conclusion of tournament, excluding refreshment concessions, etc. This is in addition to any guarantee that is included in bid.** It is also permissible to have an advance sale of tickets, which must be accounted for. The Director in charge will handle all tickets and ticket sales prior to and during the tournament. However, the local committee will furnish ticket sellers and ticket takers for the tournament. It is the responsibility of the local committee to see that all fields are lined off and in good playing condition. The Director in charge will see that the Sportsmanship Code is repeated in unison, before each game, also he will see that a member of his committee is in charge of each field.
5. The Regional Tournament Director will call the Director of Activities, no later than Monday morning of the

Tournament, and furnish him with a list of telephone numbers whereby he can be reached at the Tournament site.

A WIFI CONNECTION FOR THE DIRECTOR IS MANDATORY.

6. The Director of Activities shall determine the number of teams to participate in the Regional Tournaments after the closing of entries.
7. HOST TEAM in each respective Regional Tournament must be declared no later than **JULY 1**.
8. Teams traveling to Regional Tournaments will do so at their own expense. Teams must be certified by the Tournament Director.
9. Umpires shall be selected and assigned by the Tournament Director. Only those umpires currently registered with the Activities Director may be used in the Tournament.
10. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, catchers, coaches or any person warming up the pitcher must wear a mask **while kneeling or crouching**. Any person refusing to do so will be ejected from the game. *While positioned at home plate anyone throwing with the pitcher must wear a mask. Catchers are required to wear a safety helmet, skull caps, or hockey style masks. *Coaches are required to wear a safety helmet.
 - a. Catchers are also required to wear a protective cup.
 - b. Any catcher's mask that does not have an extended throat protector of at least two (2) inches in length is required to have an attachable throat protector.
Umpires and tournament officials shall halt the game until this rule is complied with.
11. **MINIMUM ACTIVE PLAYERS:** Teams competing in **ALB National Tournaments** must have 9 players available for participation. Teams with less than 9 players will forfeit their right to participate in National Tournaments.
12. At Regional and State competition the Director appoints the Official Scorekeeper. **NO TEAM IS PERMITTED TO**

HAVE A SCOREKEEPER IN THE DUGOUT UNLESS THAT PERSON IS IN UNIFORM AND LISTED ON THE NATIONAL FORM # 1. The only non- uniform personnel permitted in the dugouts are certified trainers. Tournament directors may, at their discretion, require the medical trainer provide a copy of their certification.

13. The American League Designated Hitter (DH) Rule will be used in tournament play as outlined in the official rules of baseball as published by Triumph Books.
14. In both Regional and State Championship Tournaments the Director will receive an allotment of up to 10 dozen baseballs. Upon accepting a bid and consecrating a contract to host either of these tournaments, it is understood that if more than the allotted baseballs are used during the tournament that the host is responsible to provide necessary baseballs to complete the tournament.
15. Every host team will provide a google maps address for the field that is being used.
16. Any player or coach that leaves an American Legion Regional tournament game to play in any other amateur baseball program shall be disqualified from further post season play. The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Any American Legion Baseball Player missing any portion of an American Legion Tournament, from the Region tournament, including registration, all the way through the American Legion World Series, because he participated in another non sanctioned baseball event such as exhibition game, tournament showcase, or combine shall be ineligible for post season play.

(C) STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

1. The Regional Championship Teams shall report to the Championship City upon receipt of instructions from the Director of Activities. He should be contacted at 717-730-9100 Ext.124 or @ lewis@pa-legion.com as soon as possible after being declared the winner.
2. An American Legion Identification card, **passport or**

birth certificate and a player contract form ALB#2 for each player listed on the roster must be presented to the Director in charge of the Tournament upon arrival in the Tournament city.

3. There shall be **two (2) glossy color photographs that measure 5" x 7"** or 8 X 10 of team of the Regional Champion. The names of the players shall be listed on back of each copy of the photograph in order of appearance and signed by the Team Manager verifying the player's identity. These will not be returned.

4. **The Activities Director shall be the Tournament Director in the STATE FINALS** and shall appoint a Tournament Committee to consist of not less than three but not more than seven (7) members and they shall serve until the conclusion of the Tournament each year.

5. The Tournament Committee with the approval of the Department Activities Committee will arrange for, and be responsible for meals, entertainment and housing while the teams are in the Final Championship City and these expenses shall be for only actually certified players plus two (2) adults. No substitutions for certified players or certified adults may be made. Bat boys and other personnel will be at their own expense.

6. The Department will purchase and receive from the Tournament Committee (200) tickets for the banquet at a cost of \$15.00 each. Dinner to be held the evening before the State Tournament. It is compulsory that all personnel attend banquet.

7. **The sponsoring organization must also house and feed the Department Staff of not more than seven (7) people.**

(a) Teams housed at the STATE FINALS will be reimbursed by the Department, travel expense in the amount of \$.70 per mile with a maximum of \$500.00*. HOST TEAM will not receive any travel allowance or meal money.

***(must travel as a team not individual cars)**

(b) Teams that are within seventy-five (75) miles of Host City will not be housed, will not

receive meal money, but will get paid for mileage each day they are in the Tournament by the Host Team. ***(must travel as a team not individual cars)**

(c) Team Managers must contact the Department Activities Director prior to making arrangements for their travel and must be authorized by the Activities Director before transportation is secured.

8. Teams, while in the Championship City, will be housed by the Tournament Committee and will be fed two (2) MEALS A DAY - BREAKFAST AND AN EVENING MEAL - or the Team Manager will be paid money to purchase these meals for his team, whichever is decided by the Department Activities Director.
9. A contract will be provided by the Department Activities Director to be negotiated between the Local Committee and the Activities Director, in the Championship Tournament.
10. All checks in regards to the State Finals shall be countersigned by the Activities Director and the Tournament Treasurer.
11. At the banquet a coin flip will decide who will be home team in first games played on the following day. The coin toss will be done at the dinner when all teams are there. They will also be given their final instructions at this time.
12. **Any Post, civic organization or community desiring to co- sponsor the American Legion Baseball State Final Championship games with the American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania should submit a letter of invitation to the Director of Activities at least two (2) years prior to the year they desire hosting the tournament.**
13. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, catchers, coaches or any person warming up the pitcher must wear a mask **while kneeling or crouching**. Any person refusing to do so will be ejected from the game.

While positioned at home plate, anyone throwing with the pitcher must wear a mask. Catchers are required to wear a NOCSOE approved safety helmet, skull caps, or hockey style masks.*Catchers must also wear a NOCSOE certified chest protector for protection against COMMOTIO CORDIS. Coaches are required to wear a safety helmet.

- a. Catchers are also required to wear a protective cup. Any catcher's mask that does not have an extended throat protector of at least two (2) inches in length is required to have an attachable throat protector. Umpires and tournament officials shall halt the game until this rule is complied with.

14. Teams upon elimination from the tournament will be required to vacate their housing within **one and one half hours (1 1/2)** hours of elimination. **There will be no exceptions.**

15. Any player or coach that leaves an American Legion State Tournament game to play in any other amateur baseball program shall be disqualified from further post season play. The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Any American Legion Baseball player missing any portion of an American Legion Tournament, from The Regional Tournament **beginning with registration** all the way through the American Legion World series, because that player participated in another non-sanctioned baseball event such as exhibition game, tournament showcase, or combine shall be ineligible for post-season tournament play.

16. **Minimum Active Players.** Teams competing in American Legion Baseball senior national tournaments (including state tournaments) must have nine players available for participation at a national tournament at all times. Senior teams that have fewer player available from their approved roster strength are permitted to bring up players registered on their affiliated Junior American Legion Baseball team roster to the senior team to approved roster strength not to exceed a total of 18 players. **CLARIFICATION** – If the Senior team's

approved roster strength is 16 players, the team is allowed to only transfer enough Junior players to a roster strength of 16 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 30. 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.

17. **Between Inning Time Limit.** Between innings, teams have 120 seconds (or 150 seconds for a relief pitcher) to be ready for the first pitch (pitcher holding the ball and touching the pitcher's plate and a batter standing in the batter's box ready to hit). The 120 second clock (or 150 second clock for a relief pitcher) shall start when all defensive players have started to leave their positions after the last out has been made and stops when the umpire calls "Play" for the first pitch of the first batter of the next half-inning. 3rd base umpire will use a stop- watch if a clock is not available. If there are unusual circumstances that prevent either team from getting on or off the field, other common -sense delays such as ceremonies or field maintenance not the fault of the teams, or an injury, the time clock is delayed until players have had an opportunity to begin to move to their positions. If the offensive team is not ready within the 120 second or 150 second clock, the umpire shall call a strike. If the defense is not ready, a ball shall be awarded to the first batter.

(D) JUNIOR LEGION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

1. An American Legion Identification card, **passport or birth certificate** and a player contract form ALB#2 for each player listed on the roster must be presented to the Director in charge of the Tournament upon arrival in the Tournament city
2. There shall be **two (2) glossy color photographs that measure 5" x 7"** or 8 X 10 of team of the Regional

Champion. The names of the players shall be listed on back of each copy of the photograph in order of appearance and signed by the Team Manager verifying the player's identity. These will not be returned.

3. The Regional Championship Teams shall report to the Championship City upon receipt of instructions from the Director of Activities. He should be contacted at 717-730-9100 ext. 124 as soon as possible after being declared the winner.
4. The Activities Director shall appoint the Tournament Director in the **STATE FINALS**.
5. The Tournament Committee with the approval of the Department Activities Committee will arrange for, and be responsible for meals, entertainment and housing while the teams are in the Final Championship City and these expenses shall be for only actually certified players plus two (2) adults. No substitutions for certified players or certified adults may be made. Batboys and other personnel will be at their own expense.
6. The sponsoring organization must also house and feed the Department Staff. Teams that are within seventy five (**75**) miles as determined by a google address from the team's home field (as filed on the current entry and insurance form) to the host team's google address will not be housed, and will not receive meal money.
7. Teams, while in the Championship City, will be housed by the Tournament Committee and will be fed two (2) **MEALS A DAY - BREAKFAST AND AN EVENING MEAL** - or the Team Manager will be paid money to purchase these meals for his team, whichever is decided by the Department Activities Director. **MONEY FOR MEALS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS, \$10.00 FOR DINNER, UNLESS PROVIDED BY A SPONSOR AND \$10.00 FOR BREAKFAST UNLESS PROVIDED BY THE HOTEL.**

8. A contract will be provided by the Department Activities Director to be negotiated between the Local Committee and the Activities Director, in the Championship Tournament.
9. Since there is no banquet at the Junior Legion State Championships, all teams will have a coin flip prior to the start of the first game and each subsequent game thereafter.
10. Any Post, civic organization or community desiring to sponsor the Junior Legion Baseball State Final Championship games should submit a letter of invitation to the Director of Activities at least two (2) years prior to the year they desire hosting the tournament.
11. Teams upon elimination from the tournament will be required to vacate their housing within **one and one half hours (1 1/2)** of elimination. **There will be no exceptions.**
12. Dual participation shall no way interfere with a player's responsibility to his American Legion Baseball Team. Any player or coach that leaves an American Legion State Tournament game to play in any other amateur baseball program shall be disqualified from further post season play.

RULE 11 - PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

MAJOR - MINOR LEAGUE RULE 3(I) PERTAINING TO AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL:

(A) AMERICAN LEGION PLAYERS

1. "TRYOUTS" to which American Legion players may be invited and in which they may be permitted to participate may be conducted by any club at any time, provided, however, that:
 - No such player shall be permitted to participate in any such tryouts if such participation would interfere with any of his American Legion activities, and such tryout will only be permitted with a letter of approval from either his Legion coach or the Commander of the Legion Post he represents in

- Legion play.
- No expenses or anything else of value shall be given, directly or indirectly, to any American Legion player who participates in such tryouts.

RULE 12 – RESCISSION OF “LOYALTY RULE”

At its meeting of Thursday, July 28, 2005, the PIAA Board of Directors approved a change to Article IX, REPRESENTATION, Section 1, Student Ineligible Who Otherwise Competes in the Same Sport, of the PIAA By-Laws, effective immediately.

At that meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to rescind ARTICLE IX, REPRESENTATION, Section 1, Student ineligible Who Otherwise Competes in the Same Sport, of the PIAA By-Laws.

The immediate repeal of the “Loyalty Rule” means that a student may compete on an outside team in the same sport during the same sport season; and, therefore, are no longer required to obtain a waiver from the Principal of the student’s school to do so.

RULE 13 - AMATEUR AND AWARDS

From current P.I.A.A. By-Laws, Article II

Section 1 - Amateur Status Required

In order to be eligible to participate in an interscholastic contest, a pupil must be an amateur in the sport involved. An amateur athlete is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the educational, physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived there from.

Section 2 - Loss of Amateur Status

An athlete loses his amateur status in an interscholastic sport whenever:

- A. He, or the school or organization which he represents, or his parent(s) or guardian(s), receives compensation, other consideration, or an award not permitted under Section 4 hereof, for or related to his

- athletic ability, performance, participation or services.
- B. He plays on a professional team or as an individual professional.
 - C. He receives consideration for becoming a member of an athletic organization or school.
 - D. He signs a contract whereby he agrees to compete in any athletic competition for consideration. It is not a violation for a high school baseball player to attend a professional baseball try- out camp, provided (1) that no expenses are paid him, and (2) his participation is otherwise in conformity with the National Federation Major-Minor League agreement.
 - E. He accepts compensation or other consideration for teaching, training or coaching in a sport. It is not a violation of this rule for a high school athlete to receive recreational activities, or for serving as a lifeguard at swimming areas.
 - F. He sells or pawns his athletic achievement awards.

Section 3- Definition of Consideration

Consideration consists of cash, items that are representation of value, and items, which have intrinsic value other than those, permitted under Section 4 thereof.

Section 4 - Permissible Awards

A non-profit service organization approved by the school principal, or the news media, may purchase a sweater, jacket, blazer, blanket, shirt, jersey, watch, ring, scroll, photograph, medal, plaque or similar trophy with appropriate insignia or comparable identification for an athlete, in recognition of his athletic ability or performance, and present the same at a time appropriate to such recognition.

They may also sponsor athletic banquets to which athletes may be invited, without charging admission to such athletes.

A pupil may accept from an institution of higher education which he visits in connection with his

prospective or possible attendance there as a student, reasonable expenses necessitated by such visit, and free admission to home athletic events of such institution which occur during such visit.

Section 5 - How Amateur Status Can Be Regained

A player who has lost his amateur status, may be reinstated by the suspending body after a period of one year from the date of suspension, providing that he refrains from all activity prohibited by Section 2 thereof during that year.

INTERPRETATIONS Section 1. May 22, 1953.

A professional manager of an amateur baseball team is not to be considered a player unless he actually participates in a game.

RULE 14 - UMPIRES

The Director of Activities must receive all renewals for the current year no later than **April 1**. All Umpires like all volunteers must complete the mandatory background checks and abuse training annually

1. Any umpire that fails to get the required background checks, complete the mandatory training and register officiates in any American Legion exhibition, regular scheduled baseball game or playoff that Umpire shall be fined **fifty dollars (\$50.00)** per game for every game worked. This fee shall be paid to the Regional Director.
2. New umpires should go to palbaseball.com to register and take the examination. A score of 70% will be considered a passing score. The Director of Activities may also be contacted.
3. The initial fee of **\$40.00** for a renewal member and **\$50.00** for new applicants will be required. Payment can be made with a credit card at palbaseball.com or by check. If mailing a check, please enclose the paper application. All checks should be made payable to: PA American Legion Baseball. If paid after April 1 the fee will be **\$55.00** to all applicants.
 - a. All renewal members will receive an email notice from

the Activities Director on or about January 15th to inform them their renewal is due and payable. **Renewal forms may also be found at: palbaseball.com under the resources tab.**

4. Upon receipt of proper fees, each umpire shall receive an arm patch and an official registration card for the current year. Additional patches are available at a cost of **\$5.00** each.
 - a. Umpiring without a current year's ID card will cause a **\$50.00** per incident fine, to be imposed on both the Umpire and the Assignor. Made payable to: PA. American Legion Baseball.
 - b. All umpires are required to wear charcoal or light gray trousers, Official American Legion Umpire cap and black shoes while working in any American Legion baseball game. Umpires may wear a black shirt, light blue shirt, a dark blue or powder blue pullover knit shirt with the current Pennsylvania American Legion umpires patch affixed in plain sight, however, **each umpiring crew must wear the same style and color pant and shirt. EFFECTIVE WITH THE 2006 SEASON IT BECAME MANDATORY TO WEAR THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL UMPIRE CAP.** Blue jeans or any type short pants, white shoes and team's caps are not permitted. Any failure to follow this rule will result in a **\$50.00** fine. If wearing a jacket over the required shirt the jacket must have an American Legion Baseball Umpire patch attached to the left sleeve or left breast.
5. Umpires, once certified, are requested to become members of their respective Regional Umpires Association.
 - a. It is from these Associations that umpires will be selected to officiate in Regional and State Championship Tournaments. Regional Directors will be asked to make recommendations from their respective regional Umpire Association to the Director of Activities for both Regional and State tournament play The Activities Director will make the final selection. The fees to work Pennsylvania American Legion State Tournaments will not exceed \$50.00, \$60 for Regionals (This does not mean that everyone will receive \$50, it is only a \$50.00 cap.)

contest, the umpire will be dropped from the list of approved umpires.

- b. Upon acquittal, dismissal of the charges, or entry into, and successful completion of an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (A.R.D.) program, the umpire upon application to the Director or representative shall be reinstated or reapply, may either be reinstated by the Director or his representative, or if not reinstated shall be notified of the opportunity for a hearing by the director or the representative, to determine whether he is to be reinstated or to remain suspended from the list of approved umpires.
- c. The Activities Director or his representative may suspend umpires who will not co-operate with the American Legion program or who pursue a course of action where in the judgment of the Activities Director or his representative that is detrimental to the welfare of the program or members there of- who conduct themselves off or on the field in a manner not conducive to the best interest of the American Legion Baseball program or who will not comply with the regulations pertaining to the rules of the American Legion Baseball program.

11. **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.

- a. 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 will not be called.

1. "On the ground" means either a head-first slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground.
2. "Directly into a base" means the runner's entire

body (feet, legs, trunk and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.

Clarification

If a runner goes into a base standing up and does not make contact or alter the play of the defensive player, interference shall not be called.

Clarification

If the runner goes into a base standing up and is safe or out, but makes contact with or alters the play of the defensive players, interference shall be called.

- b. 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.

Clarification

- c. **Actions by a runner are illegal and interference shall be called if:**

- a) ***Contact occurs on top of the base as a result of a “pop-up slide.**

- b) **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).**

- c) **The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder. **

- d) **The runner’s raised leg make contact higher than the fielder’s knee when in a standing position;**

- e) **The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg; or**

- f) **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-f

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 contest.

Clarification

If the bases are loaded with no outs, a double-play attempt is made, and interference is called, all other runners must return to their original bases.

12. **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.) * **In the event blood is easily visible on the injured player's pants or jersey, the item must be changed. NO RE-ENTRY IS ALLOWED.**
13. **COLLISIONS.** The American Legion Baseball Committee is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions with the catcher at home plate, and with infielders at all bases. The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid collisions whenever possible.
 - a. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly **is in possession** of the ball, the umpire shall judge.
 1. Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (could the runner have reached the base without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the base was blocked) or
 2. Whether the runner actually was 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 other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

Approved 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.

Approved 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. If the defensive player blocks the base (plate) or base line **clearly without the ball**, or is not in the immediate act of catching the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a **delayed dead ball** shall be called.

Approved Ruling 3: If the runner collides flagrantly, he shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.

Malicious contact: The Baseball Committee is concerned that some coaches may not have explained to their players that malicious contact is illegal. The majority of intentional collisions occur at home plate where the catcher is blocking the plate. Runners should be instructed to slide directly to the plate, or away from the catcher, or to avoid making contact with the catcher especially when the defender is in possession of the ball. Any player who, **in the judgment of the umpire**, maliciously runs into another player is automatically ejected, and is declared out. Our umpires have been instructed that if there is any intentional and excessive force, or if there is any intent to injure another player, the offending player shall be removed from the game. Malicious contact penalty will be enforced whether committed by an offensive or defensive player.

RULE 15 - INSURANCE

Any American Legion team playing in non-legion sponsored tournaments will not have Insurance coverage. Teams playing exhibition games, other than Legion teams, must have such games on schedule at the beginning of the year and be approved by the sponsor, Regional Director and Activities Director. It is compulsory that all American Legion Baseball Teams have Accident and Health Insurance

coverage as well as Liability coverage. All baseball insurance inquiries must be directed to K&K Insurance at 1-800-441-3994. Insurance does not cover the period between the last day of the American Legion World Series and November 1st. Fall Ball is not covered unless you purchase annual insurance policies.

RULE 16

BACKGROUND CLEARANCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

National Background Clearance

These clearances must be completed at the legion baseball website: <https://baseball.legion.org/background> and then select Pennsylvania, then the appropriate league and role for your team. **The fee is \$17.00. This clearance is required yearly.**

This will also ensure compliance with Required PA State Background Clearances as they will be completed as part of the background check

VOLUNTEERS:

ALB Risk Management Policy. Per NEC Resolution No.17 October 2023: all adult participants to include coaches, managers, volunteers, umpires and players, 18 years of age or older) are required, by Public Law 115-126, “Protecting Young Victims From Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017”, to have adult abuse awareness training and background checks. This is in order to establish that they will be eligible to participate in national tournaments hosted by The American Legion.

Act 153 of 2014 adopted by the Pennsylvania Legislature and signed by the governor. Act 153 amends the Child Protective Services Law. **ALL volunteers who will be working alone with players or who are supervising/coaching the players are now required annually to receive their clearances through the online American Legion baseball portal. This background check will meet all PA State requirements** (Senate Bill 534 Abuse Training, (Act 34 PA Criminal Record Check, Act 151 PA Child Abuse History Clearance, and (Act 114 FBI Fingerprint Clearance (If Not a Resident of PA for the Past TEN (10)

Consecutive Years). **If a resident of Pennsylvania for the past ten consecutive years, an affirmation statement must be signed. These clearances are required** before beginning the first scheduled practice of the year.

HOW TO OBTAIN CLEARANCES

All Background checks and Training will be completed using Protect Youth Sports (PYS) The Child Abuse, PSP, and FBI clearances can all be applied for electronically. All necessary instructions and links to apply for these clearances can be found at <https://baseball.legion.org/background>. The certification form and affirmation statement form can be found at <https://www.palbaseball.com> under the resources tab. For Senate Bill 534 Training, upon receiving notification of a successful background check a personalized link will be emailed to each person at the email address used when applying for his or her background check to allow for completion of the training online.

Regarding FBI Fingerprint Clearance

*** The fingerprint based background check is a multiple step process. For more information and to begin the registration process, go to identogo.com. This is required for all volunteers who have not resided in Pennsylvania for the previous Ten (10) years. For questions about your FBI Clearance, please contact the FBI/ Adam Walsh Unit at 717-783- 6211 or 1-877-371-5422***

2026 DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan 1** All leagues required to conduct reorganizational meetings. Registration portal and background check and training portal opens for 2026 season. All Coaches, Managers, Team Volunteers, League Officials, Directors can start background checks and abuse training for 2026 season.
- Feb 15** Insurance purchases open for 2026 season
- Mar 31** **Rezoning** for leagues and teams must be completed prior to this date
- Apr 1** Umpire renewal deadline
- May 1** **All** senior/junior team registrations must be completed online. \$200 late fee will apply if not completed by May 1.
All senior/junior team insurance must be paid. Refundable if unable to field a team. Refund deadline is June 25. Must send

notification via email to Activities Director.

VARIES all senior/junior team rosters must be submitted online at baseball.legion.org **no later than 24 hours prior to the start of each team's regular season play.**

June 25 All Senior Playoff Rosters are locked. No Junior Legion players can be added to Senior Form 1 after this date.

All Registration Fee refunds for teams that are unable to be fielded must be submitted by the June 25 deadline via Email to the Activities Director.

Senior Team Players 18 and older must start background checks to be eligible for Post Season Play

July 9 Junior Legion League Champions must be declared by 5PM

11-15 Jr Legion Region 2 Tournament at TBD
Jr Legion Region 3 Tournament at Yardley-Morrisville
Jr Legion Region 4 Tournament at TBD
Jr Legion Region 5 Tournament at Bloomsburg
Jr Legion Region 6 Tournament at TBD
Jr Legion Region 7 Tournament at Homer City
Jr Legion Region 8 Tournament at Punxsutawney

14 Senior League Champions must be declared

15 Baseball scholarship nomination forms must be postmarked to department headquarters by this date.

18 Background checks and abuse training for Players 18 and older must be final to be eligible for participation in State Regionals and above.

17-22 Junior Legion State Finals at Yardley-Morrisville?

Sr. Region 2 Tournament at Quakertown
Sr. Region 3 Tournament at Broomall
Sr. Region 4 Tournament at Waynesboro
Sr. Region 5 Tournament at Scranton
Sr. Region 6 Tournament at Blackhawk
Sr. Region 7 Tournament at Claysburg
Sr. Region 8 Tournament at Meadville

24 Hall of Fame Dinner at the Holiday Inn, Williamsport, PA

26-30 State Championship Tournament at Lycoming College Field
Brandon Park, Host Williamsport Post 1

Aug 2-4 Mason/Dixon American Legion Junior Tournament at
Cumberland MD TBD

6-10 Mid-Atlantic National Tournament in Shrewsbury, MA

- 9** State All-Star Showcase (East / Central / West) at Lycoming College Field Brandon Park, Williamsport, PA.
- 14-19** National World Series at Shelby, NC
- Oct 17-18** Fall Activities Committee Meeting –Legion Headquarters Wormleysburg, PA

SPORTS HALL OF FAME HISTORY

The Pennsylvania American Legion Sports Hall of Fame was organized in 1963 to honor those persons, whether members of The American Legion or not, for their outstanding accomplishments to the youth of Pennsylvania. There are many individuals throughout our state who give of their time, talent and personal finances in some form for youth athletic programs.

Recommendations for the Sports Hall of Fame are made by application, which can be procured from the Regional Director and submitted to the Director of Activities, P.O. Box 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105, no later than September 1 of the current year. After the individuals are recommended and selected, an appropriate award ceremony is conducted at the Annual State Championship Baseball finals dinner the following August.

To see the list of past inductees to the American Legion Hall of Fame you can go the following link. <https://www.palbaseball.com/page/show/8152951-pal-baseball-hall-of-fame>

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