

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
AMERICAN LEGION
BASEBALL
2023 BY-LAWS**



**of the 7th District
As of 5/1/2023**

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Be it known the District By-Laws were adopted on 5/1/2023

The following Posts/teams being present:

Rayson-Miller Braman

James Cooke Ely Fagan

Greece Irondequoit

Section 1

Administration/Membership

These By-Laws are intended to supplement the National and Department Rules governing American Legion Baseball and provide for the administration of American Legion Baseball at the District level and in no way be used to circumvent, revise, or amend the rules of the National Committee or the Department Baseball Committee. Any conflict of rules shall be resolved by reference to the Department and/or National Rules.

Section 1.1 Membership

Section 1.1.1 District Baseball Chairman

An individual appointed by their respective District Commander to act as a liaison between their respective District Commander and the Department Baseball Committee. The Chairman is responsible for promoting American Legion baseball in their respective district and throughout the state.

Section 1.1.2 District Baseball Director

An individual appointed by the Baseball Committee to oversee and supervise the District baseball program, under the general rules/regulations of the Department Baseball Committee.

Section 1.1.3 District Baseball Staff

Each District Director has the ability to recommend an assistant/administrator to the baseball committee for approval. The District Director will define the responsibilities of the assistant/administrator.

Section 1.1.4 County Chairman

An individual appointed by their respective County Commander to promote a baseball program within their respective County and assist the District Chairman as needed.

Section 1.1.5 Post Chairman

An individual appointed by their respective Post Commander to supervise play of his Post entry and assure that all National and Department Rules are fully complied with, while being responsible for team conduct while participating with American Legion Baseball.

Section 1.1.6 Resignations/Replacements

Any Chairman or baseball official that fails to carry out their responsibilities or resigns may be replaced by the Department Baseball Chairman.

Section 1.2 Administration

Section 1.2.1 District Director Responsibilities

In addition to the powers and duties conferred upon by the Department Rules, the District Director:

- Shall resolve all disputes in player recruiting, eligibility and territories between Posts
- Shall promote the highest level of competition in their respective District
- Shall provide any District Chairman with the necessary information to be reported to the District Commander
- May suspend any team, coach, manager or player for conduct detrimental to the aims and principles of American Legion Baseball.
- May appoint committees or otherwise delegate authority

Section 1.3 Voting/Amendments

Section 1.3.1 Voting

Each team Manager or designated representative shall get a vote.

All voting will need a quorum of half of the qualified teams.

Section 1.3.2 Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of participating teams at any regularly convened meeting.

Section 2

Team Eligibility

Section 2.1 Eligible Teams

Membership shall be open to all Posts within the District. The District is defined as the Counties listed on the District page of the official Department website or any areas added by the Department Baseball Committee.

Any Post may enter a team for competition in this District by completing the new team application form (with approval) by the deadline as indicated in Section 10.

The impact on existing teams recruiting area will be given consideration.

Under no circumstances will more than one (1) team be able to use the same base school.

Teams without a Post sponsorship are also eligible in areas where there is not a Post sponsored team.

Any team that files their final roster with less than 12 players listed will be ineligible for the District Tournament.

Section 2.2 Team Organizational Structure

Each team shall have a Manager appointed by the Post Commander and/or the Post Baseball Chairman. This Manger shall be indicated on the National Team Registration form. The team Manger or his appointed representative should be present at all District meetings.

The Post Commander and/or Post Baseball Chairman is responsible for supervising the play of his/her Post entry, for the team conduct while participating in American Legion Baseball and assure that all rules are fully complied with.

Section 2.3 Forfeits

The refusal to compete fully in the League will result in the forfeiture of the right to play in the District Tournament.

If a team is found to have an illegal player all games that player participated in will be forfeited and count as a loss.

A team does need 9 players to start and finish a game. If a team falls below the (9) player limit that team will forfeit. Each player must be listed on the teams' current national roster submission.

If a team does not have the proper paperwork to the District Director by their first league game, all games that are scheduled will be a forfeit until all proper paperwork is filed.

Any team that forfeits two (2) league games will be disqualified from the District Tournament. Additional penalties may be imposed as determined by the District Director with input from Department Baseball Committee.

NOTE: Any forfeits due to pitch count rule violations will not be counted towards the maximum forfeit rule listed above

A forfeit in the District Tournament will cause offending team to be removed from tournament play and be ineligible for the District Tournament in the following season. The District Director with input from Department Baseball Committee will review the circumstances of the forfeit, with consideration of injuries and other unforeseen circumstances, in determining the team's eligibility for the next season's league play and post season play.

Section 3

Individual Player Eligibility

A player is eligible to compete in the American Legion Baseball program as long as he abides by the American Legion National By-Laws and Player Eligibility requirements. These requirements can be found in the National Rulebook, Rule 2.

The National Rulebook, Rule 4D Transfer rule states that "*A player released from a team must obtain permission on National Transfer Form #76 from that team's manager*".

Beginning with the 2023 season there will be three (3) levels of American Legion Baseball in the Department of New York: Senior (19U) / Junior (17U) / Prep (15U).

A player is granted an automatic release at each of the following occurrences:

1. At each level of American Legion Baseball, for example a player that has previously played at the Prep Level is granted an automatic release when he advances to the Junior Level and then again when he advances to the Senior Level.
2. Anytime a player's residence change results in a change in school, regardless of any change in level

Transitional rule for 2023 season only. A player that was given a release to a Junior team in 2022 was given that release under the rules that the release was good for the 2022 season only. Therefore, that player would be considered to have a clean slate of eligibility going into the 2023 season and would therefore qualify for the automatic release for the 2023 season to play either Junior or Senior level.

No manager shall deny a form 76 release to any player that qualifies for an automatic release regardless of player age.

A player loses this right to an automatic release once the player participates in a single game for any American Legion team at each level. At the end of the season, if the player is not advancing to the next level, the player can request a release, but the manager does have the right to refuse. (Exception: the team previously played for is no longer participating in the league.)

No dual rostering of players is allowed.

Managers and Coaches are expected to have integrity and reflect American Legion values. District directors will be responsible for settling any disputes that are unable to be resolved at the team level.

Any effort or attempt to undermine, avoid, or abuse this rule in any way will be met with strong disciplinary action by the State Baseball Committee up to and including dismissal of the manager.

Players who graduated in 2022 shall play for the last American Legion team they played for or for the team nearest his parents' domicile.

Section 4

Senior League Rules

Section 4.1

District 7 NY American Legion Baseball League and Non-League play shall be in accordance with rules adopted by the National Americanism Commission of the American Legion, 700 N. Pennsylvania St, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

With a few exceptions, all District, Department (State) and National tournament competition of American Legion Baseball will follow the Official Baseball Rules as authorized by the Commissioner of Major League Baseball.

Restated- we in District 7 will follow the National Rules, Department of NY BY-LAWS with minor modifications allowed in the District 7 By Laws, for League and Non-League play.

Section 4.2

American Legion Indoctrination – it is imperative that all team Managers give their respective players and parents an understanding of what the American Legion is and what it stands for as well as a better understanding of the proud tradition of the institution and what a privilege it is to participate in such an honored program.

It is a veteran's program - #1 in commitment – that invests in our kids and our future – a way of giving back. It has truly withstood the test of time.

Section 4.3

Resolution of Issues to stay in District 7. All issues pertaining to controversy should stay in District 7. Any issues that cannot be satisfactorily resolved by a committee comprised of the District 7 Director, Umpire Assignor and Neutral Coach will be taken to the next level, the Department Program Director, by the District 7 Director.

Section 4.4

Forfeits are not at all what American Legion Baseball stands for or is all about.

If a team forfeits the remainder of any one season, regardless of where in the schedule that final game was played that team is ineligible to play in District 7 in the following season OR until such time after that in which the suspended team meets the following criteria.

- Suspended team makes financial restitution to District 7 Director for any and all financial debt incurred – i.e. umpire fees
- Team must present a plan in person at a special meeting called by the District Director in January of the year of requested reentry. This meeting must include but not be limited to the following:
 - Credentials of the proposed experiences coaching staff
 - A plan of recruiting, commitment and organization
 - Designated field of play
 - Written agreement to assume any financial obligations incurred such as umpire fees
 - Agree to abide by all American Legion Baseball rules – District 7, Department, National
 - Must achieve commitment from a sponsored American Legion Post in District 7.
- Preceding the formal presentation by the team requesting reinstatement the committee as defined below will review all facts presented and render a decision notifying the requesting team of its findings.
 - A committee comprised of the District 7 American Legion Baseball Director, the District 7 American Legion Commander (or his or her designated representative) and a group of active Teams Managers or Coaches appointed by the Baseball Director
- It should be noted, it is not automatic that a team be limited to a one-year suspension. The reinstatement lies completely on the presentation and approval by the appointed committee.
- Players on the suspended team may play for other teams in District 7 during the time of suspension HOWEVER the players must abide by rules of commitment as outlined in the rules.

Section 4.5

The American Flag will be present on the field during all American Legion Baseball games. Prior to the start of each game it is the Home team responsibility to present the Flag of our Country on the pitcher's mound with opposing teams on 1st and 3rd base paths and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" or play the "Star Spangled Banner" followed by the reading of the "Code Of Conduct". The umpires and coaches will discuss the ground rules loud enough for both teams to hear. Both teams will shake hands at home plate prior to the start of the game & immediately after the conclusion.

We come as friends, compete, and leave as friends.

Note: During double headers teams should follow the above prior to start of first game and both teams shake hands at conclusion of the 2nd game.

Section 4.6

The Flag of our glorious Country is present on our field of play as it is on each of our respective uniforms and we recite the Code of Conduct for a reason. We expect everyone to rise to a higher level in resolving any dispute that may arise. Nothing is absolute in this great game and as hard as we try someone, maybe an umpire, coach or player may observe differently.

Calmness, courtesy, sportsmanship and one's speaking voice are a must to attempt resolution. Remember the words of the "Code of Conduct".

- It is requested that the umpire in charge e-mail the names and brief detail of any ejections that take place, coaches or players.
- The player or coach must sit out the following league game
 - Players must be in uniform and on the bench
 - Coaches are not allowed in the dugout and are not to be involved with team decisions
- If the same player/coach is ejected 2 times he must appear before the District Director immediately after the second ejection and COULD be terminated from further play.
- If a coach is ejected 2 times during the season the team will be eliminated from Post Season play – role models and sportsmanship is what we are teaching.

Section 4.7

Catcher Speed Up Rule as defined in Section 7, is an optional rule during league play and the team that will be using this option must notify both the umpires and opposing team manager prior to the start of the game.

Section 4.8

Reentry as defined in Section 7 will be allowed in District 7 League games. This is an optional rule during league play and the team that will be using this option must notify both the umpires and opposing team manager prior to the start of the game.

Section 4.9

The American Flag and American Legion Patches will be worn on all uniforms worn during League, District and Department play. Pride by players & coaches for the way they dress and how they present themselves to their spectators is paramount in our

program. Clean, neat uniforms and players that promote pride and respect is our goal.

Section 4.10

Coaches on base paths must be in full uniform (No abbreviations) and are required to wear a helmet per National ALB Helmet rule. Only those coaches or manager listed on the teams Form 1 are eligible for these positions. A score keeper may be in the dugout not in uniform but may not enter the field of play during the game.

Section 4.11

All corresponding paperwork, Forms 1,2,76, and 77, background checks, coach's code of ethics, must be in compliance with the deadlines outlined in the Department of NY By-Laws and all team information entered online at the ALB National website. Original form #2s are kept by the team manager, and three copies of form #2, #76, and #77 must be submitted to the District 7 Director prior to the start of the season.

Section 4.12

Base runner takeout or intentional collision will not be tolerated. There will be no barrel slides at second base or intentional collisions with any defensive player with cause to injure. If so deemed the umpire will immediately eject the guilty player. Further definition of this rule resides in the National American Legion Rules

Section 4.13

Game Start and Completion times are totally at the discretion of the umpires in charge of the game. They have full authority to call a game for whatever the reason or request that it proceed in an expeditious manner.

Section 4.14

Dual Participation is allowed at the option of the Team Manager. The District 7 Director will support either option at the request of the Manager. The decision must put American Legion Baseball first even during tournament play.

Section 4.15

Points are awarded in the League standings:

- Win – 3 points
- Tie – 2 points (not permanent points – must play to completion)
- Loss – 1 point
- Forfeit – minus 3 points.

Although points are allotted for a tie game, they are temporary. The game must be rescheduled and played on the field to conclusion. The game will be resumed on the earliest date possible (scheduled within 3 days).

Section 4.15

The home team is responsible for the following:

- Must provide 3 baseballs prior to start of game and any additional if needed
- Conduct the pre- and post-game ceremonies as outlined in Section 4.5

- Check field to ensure that it is playable or can be made playable.
- Weather Cancellations, threat of rain, or rain prior to scheduled game time:
 - Cancellations must be made no later than than 2 hours prior to game time.
 - In the event of cancellation, the opposing team must be notified.
 - Note: The umpires will contact the home team manager 2 hours prior to start of game, so the umpires will not have to be notified. However, the home team must notify both the umpire assignor and District 7 Director by email on game day.
- Game rescheduling must follow the process noted in Section 4.17
- The home field Manager or Coach must send an e-mail to the District 7 Director with the score and any comments relevant to the game on or before 9:00PM weeknights or 6:00 PM weekends. With the age of cell phones and computers this should not be an impossible task. The times must be adhered to so the newspapers and website can be updated.

Section 4.16

Both teams will be responsible for payment for non-league scheduled games. A separate invoice will be sent to the District 7 Director from the umpires' association. Each team will send payment to the District 7 Director for the amount that is due. The District 7 Director will send payment to the umpires' association after receiving payment from each team.

In the event that an umpire is a late arrival or no show, it is necessary to e-mail the Assignor (copy District 7 Director) with detail as to the inning arrived and name of the assigned umpire.

Section 4.17

Each cancelled game MUST be rescheduled within 3 days. This does not mean played within 3 days. The rescheduled date should be the earliest date available not to exceed 2 weeks. It is the home team Manager who is responsible to email the District 7 Director with a copy to the opposing team manager / head coach and include the game number, the from date, the rescheduled date, time and location.

Note: Any team that requests to re-schedule a game after the final schedule is published must obtain agreement from the opposing team manager otherwise the original schedule for this game prevails and is binding to both teams. If agreement to re-schedule is obtained, all rules noted above regarding cancelled games must be followed.

Section 4.18

It is the responsibility of the Team manager making substitutions to notify both the home plate umpire as well as the opposing team of any changes to his lineup. This is a courtesy issue to the opposing team and should be carried out without problems.

Section 4.19

Foul Language, poor sportsmanship, inappropriate gestures will not be tolerated by this league. It is the umpire's responsibility to resolve the issue immediately. If fans are guilty, those fan's team Manager will be given a warning to convey to the fans. If unruliness still persists the game will be immediately called, and the opposing team awarded the victory. Players and coaches will be warned or ejected immediately depending upon the severity of the offense.

Section 4.20

Game ceremonies promptly at 5:55PM weekdays and 09:55 AM Weekends.

Section 4.21

It is the team managers responsibility to be familiar with the umpire contract as well as all AL Rules & policies and contracts of this program. Doing so certainly helps minimize conflicts on the field.

Managers are required to carry the appropriate documentation (Form 1,2,76,77, Insurance papers and original birth certificates with their person) on a game by game situation to avert any challenges brought forth by opposing teams.

A copy of these rules should be in the possession of each Manager for field reference and dispute resolution. Please make an effort to familiarize yourself prior to season play. Umpires should also be aware of all rules.

Section 5

Protest / Appeals

Reference Department By-Laws Section 5 for all protest and appeals procedures.

Section 6

Junior League Rules

The rules stated in Section 4 apply to Junior teams unless specifically stated under this section.

Section 7

Playing Regulations

Section 7.1 Baseballs

All District League games must be played with the approved ball as indicated in the Department By-Laws

Section 7.2 Bats

Follow National Rule

Section 7.3 Courtesy Runners

Section 7.3.1 Seniors

Must check only one (1) option below:

- The courtesy runner rule as defined in section 7.3.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season only
- The courtesy runner rule as defined in section 7.3.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season and District Playoffs
- No courtesy runner rule will be allowed

Section 7.3.2 Juniors

Teams have the option to use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time. The umpire in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation and announce it to the official scorer. For speed-up purposes, it is recommended that the courtesy runner be used with two men out in all games.

CLARIFICATION

The courtesy runner rule does not apply to a pinch-hitter for the catcher unless the catcher has been re-entered. A team may not use the same runner for the pitcher and catcher in the same inning. The courtesy runner may not be removed from a base to become a pinch hitter. A player removed from the game may not be used as a courtesy runner. Should the courtesy runner pinch hit, pinch run or enter the game at any position, he will no longer be eligible to be a courtesy runner. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered an illegal substitute.

Section 7.4 Designated Hitter

Section 7.4.1 Seniors

Must check only one (1) option below:

- The designated hitter rule as defined in section 7.4.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season only
- The designated hitter rule as defined in section 7.4.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season and District Playoffs
- The designated hitter will only be used for the pitcher as published in the Official Baseball Rules

Section 7.4.2 Juniors

A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game.

A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the starting lineup. A designated hitter for said player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer.

Failure to declare a designated hitter prior to the game precludes the use of a designated hitter in that game.

If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designed hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter.

A designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order.

No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation.

CLARIFICATION

The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game when:

- a) the defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch-runs for the designated hitter, or
- b) the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

Section 7.5 Re-entry Rule

Section 7.5.1 Seniors

Must check only one (1) option below:

- The re-entry rule as defined in section 7.5.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season only
- The re-entry rule as defined in section 7.5.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season and District Playoffs
- No re-entry rule will be allowed

Section 7.5.2 Juniors

Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-enter once, including a player who was the designated hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may NOT re-enter.

CLARIFICATION

Keep in mind that once the POSITION of DH is eliminated in the game it cannot be used again, however the PLAYER that was the DH is eligible to re-enter in the same position in the batting order for the substitute player that replaced him in the lineup, however he must play a defensive position.

Section 7.6 Pregame procedures

Each American Legion Baseball contest should be preceded by the following:

After the umpires have covered the ground rules, the American Legion Baseball Code of Conduct should be recited with both teams lined up on the baseline. After the code of conduct either the National Anthem should be played, or the Pledge of Allegiance should be recited.

Section 8

Sr. & Jr. District Tournament

Section 8.1 Tournament Rules

- Tie Break Policy
 - When post season District Tournament representatives are being determined if 2 or more teams have identical records
 - Whenever possible tied teams will play off the tie on the field of play. Dates for such tie breaking games will be included in the League Schedule. If by chance weather or time are an influencing factor (determined by the League Director) the following will apply
 - Head to Head League game records between tied teams – best record advance
 - Contending teams record against the top teams after completion of season play in the order of 1st place and going downward until a tie is broken.
 - If game records tied – runs against is used to resolve issue
 - A single game playoff may be necessary to seed the last and final representative
- Reentry will not be allowed in the District 7 tournament with one exception.
 - If during the late innings of play all players on the bench of any one team have been substituted for (no longer in the game) and one of the nine players on the field is injured, a player may re-enter the game in place of the injured player in an endeavor to complete the game without suffering a forfeit.
 - The intent of this rule is to complete the game and not take advantage of an opposing team. It must be agreed upon by the opposing team manager and the Umpire in charge that a player's injury is serious enough to justify re-entry of player already removed from the game.

Section 8.2 Senior Tournament

The top four (4) teams will play two (2) round of best out of three (3) series to determine the District Champion and representative in the Department Tournament.

Section 8.3 Junior Tournament

There are no Junior Teams in this District

Section 9

Prep League Rules

- 9.1 Beginning with 2023, a new division of American Legion Baseball is created and hereby referred to as Prep Division.
- 9.2 Players will be eligible to play in Prep Division beginning with the minimum eligible age to play American Legion Baseball through age 15. For 2023, this would include birth years 2008-2009-2010. Districts have the option to restrict the ages below what is stated here. In order to do so the age specification MUST be included in the District Section 9 of these Bylaws. There is no way to make the age older than 15.
- 9.3 Playing rules
1. The courtesy runner rule as defined in section 7.3.2
 2. The designated hitter rule as defined in section 7.4.2
 3. The re-entry rule as defined in section 7.5.2
 4. There will be NO extra hitter allowed at any time
 5. The pitch count rule as defined in section 7.9 of the Department bylaws is required for the entire season
- 9.4 Insurance
- All Prep Division teams must purchase insurance through K&K through the registration site as a Junior team. See Department bylaws section 2.6 for more information.
- 9.6 Registration
- All Prep Division teams must register on the National Website as a Junior team and MUST include 15U after the team's name to indicate that this is a Prep level team. Currently National does not have the Prep level team setup on its website. See Department bylaws section 2.6 for more information.
- 9.7 Roster eligibility
- Roster limits and eligibility follow National Rules. Players new to American Legion Baseball have the one time option to select which team to play for.
- The Prep level is designed to allow players coming out of Little League to have a place to play in American Legion Baseball. A concentrated effort should be made to focus on a teams' base school players.
- 9.8 There will be no Department level tournament for Prep Division in 2023
- 9.9 Baseballs must be stamped with American Legion emblem

There are no Prep Teams in this District

Section 10

Important Dates

- | | |
|---------|---|
| June 2 | League Play Begins |
| July 10 | League Play Ends |
| July 11 | Reserved for League makeup games that are rained out on the last week of league play and for any needed playoff games to decide the teams that will advance to the District 7 tournament. |
| July 13 | District Tournament Begins |

This is a very short window to complete our games, so it is important that all coaches work closely together to complete their games within this window. It has always and will continue to be a priority to decide the advancing teams through play on the field rather than having to invoke the tie breaker policy

To each of the Managers, coaches and support staff, you have my total admiration for what you do and how you do it. Without each of you the program would not go forward. Tradition is based primarily on giving of family and personal time for and to the kids. God love each of you.

Section 11

District Contacts

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