

American Legion
Department of Florida



Baseball Rule Book
2015 - 2016

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PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

This Departmental Guidebook has been prepared by the Department of Florida Baseball Executive Committee as a form of communication between the Department Baseball Committee and the managers or coaches of the American Legion Baseball participants in the State of Florida.

Recommendation: It is recommended that you read this handbook carefully and fully acquaint yourself with all the rules and regulations outlined in it. It will provide you with dates and assist you in processing the paperwork necessary to field an American Legion Baseball Team in Florida.

A failure on your part to operate your team in accordance with the rules and regulations of American Legion Baseball, both State and National, could result in the following action.

- (A) Your team could be prohibited from playing American Legion Baseball.
- (B) The eligibility of your players could be jeopardized.
- (C) You could lose players due to rule infractions.
- (D) Your team could forfeit league or tournament games once the season is underway.

The guidelines set forth in this handbook and the rules and regulations outlined have been designed to protect your team, your players, and the American Legion Post or organization that sponsors your team. THE BASIC OBJECTIVES ARE: (1) FAIR PLAY SO NEITHER TEAM GAINS AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE, AND (2) PROVIDE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PARTICIPANTS. To set aside a rule provides one team or the other with an unwarranted advantage.

If you have questions or comments about any information contained in this handbook, contact your Area Chairman or contact:

American Legion Department of Florida
Eric Owen, Baseball Chairman
Cell: (904) 545-3480

DID YOU KNOW? Since 1925, the American Legion has sponsored American Legion Baseball. More than ten million teenagers have played American Legion baseball since 1925. Players learned the importance of leadership, teamwork and team loyalty, while sharpening their skills on the baseball diamond. Nearly 90% of this year's World Series Seniors are playing college baseball this spring. Nearly 60% of professional baseball players played American Legion Baseball, including 46 Hall of Fame Members.

PAST DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

1978 Hialeah Post 32
1981 West Tampa Post 248
1986 Jensen Beach Post 126
1997 Sanford Post 53



NATIONAL RUNNER-UP

1948 - Jacksonville Post 9

MOST STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

West Palm Beach - 12

SENIOR STATE CHAMPIONS

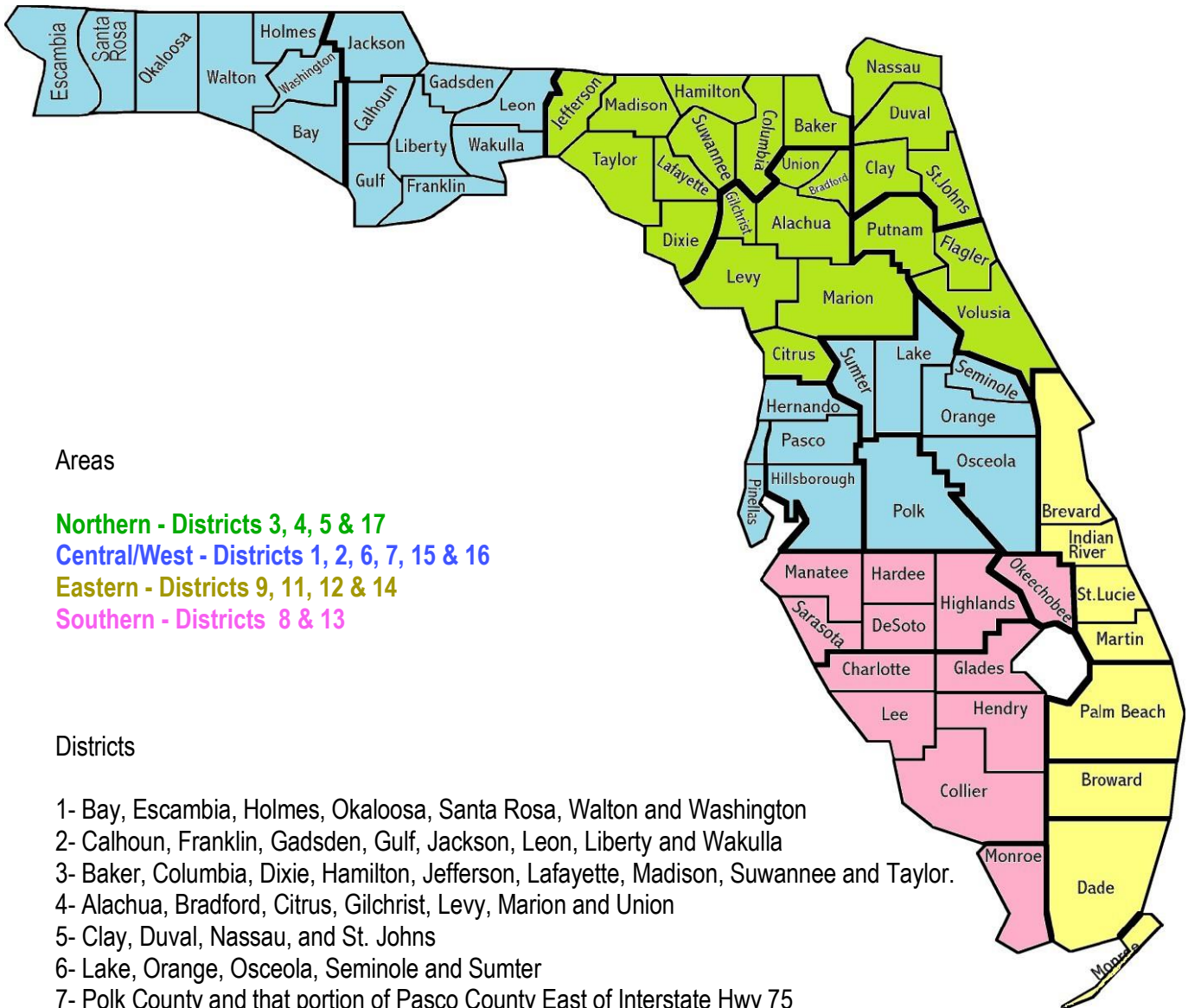
1928 TAMPA
1929 TAMPA
1930 TAMPA
1931 TAMPA
1932 WEST PALM BEACH POST 12
1933 GAINESVILLE POST 16
1934 TAMPA
1935 WEST PALM BEACH POST 12
1936 TAMPA - YBOR CITY
1937 TALLAHASSEE POST 13
1938 WEST PALM BEACH POST 12
1939 TALLAHASSEE POST 13
1940 JACKSONVILLE POST 137
1941 LAKELAND POST 4
1942 NONE
1943 NONE
1944 WEST PALM BEACH POST 12
1945 LAKELAND POST 4
1946 AVON PARK POST 69
1947 JACKSONVILLE POST 9
1948 JACKSONVILLE POST 9
1949 JACKSONVILLE POST 9
1950 WEST PALM BEACH POST 12
1951 JACKSONVILLE POST 9
1952 JACKSONVILLE POST 9
1953 JACKSONVILLE POST 9
1954 JACKSONVILLE POST 9
1955 LAKELAND POST 4
1956 WEST PALM BEACH POST 12
1957 MIAMI PAN AM
1958 LAKELAND POST 4
1959 WEST PALM BEACH POST 12
1960 MIAMI PAN AM
1961 MIAMI PAN AM
1962 BRADENTON POST 24
1963 WEST PALM BEACH POST 12
1964 WEST PALM BEACH POST 12
1965 TALLAHASSEE POST 13
1966 MIAMI POST 300
1967 MIAMI POST 300
1968 WEST TAMPA POST 248
1969 WEST TAMPA POST 248
1970 MIAMI SHORES POST 124
1971 TALLAHASSEE POST 13
1972 GAINESVILLE POST 16
1973 VERO BEACH POST 39
1974 DELAND POST 6
1975 DELAND POST 6
1976 ST. PETERSBURG POST 14
1977 WEST PALM BEACH 12
1978 HIALEAH POST 32
1979 ORLANDO POST 286
1980 HIALEAH POST 32
1981 WEST TAMPA POST 248
1982 DELAND POST 6
1983 WEST PALM BEACH POST 12
1984 WEST TAMPA POST 248

1985 MADEIRA BEACH POST 274
1986 JENSEN BEACH POST 126
1987 WEST TAMPA POST 248
1988 WEST PALM BEACH POST 12
1989 SARASOTA POST 30
1990 BRANDON POST 278
1991 SARASOTA POST 30
1992 MIAMI POST 346
1993 MIAMI POST 346
1994 MIAMI POST 346
1995 CORAL GABLES POST 98
1996 DELAND POST 6
1997 SANFORD POST 53
1998 SANFORD POST 53
1999 BRADENTON POST 24
2000 FORT PIERCE POST 358
2001 SANFORD POST 53
2002 SANFORD POST 53
2003 SEBASTIAN POST 189
2004 BAY COUNTY POST 375
2005 SANFORD POST 53
2006 DELAND POST 6
2007 CORAL SPRINGS POST 265
2008 FORT PIERCE POST 358
2009 BRADENTON POST 24
2010 BOYNTON BEACH 164
2011 BRADENTON POST 24
2012 FORT PIERCE POST 358
2013 JACKSONVILLE POST 88
2014 JACKSONVILLE POST 88
2015 TALLAHASSEE POST 13

JUNIOR STATE CHAMPIONS

1988 LAKELAND POST 4
1989 BRADENTON POST 24
1990 COLUMBUS, MIAMI
1991 BOCA RATON POST 277
1992 SARASOTA BASEBALL CLUB
1993 JACKSONVILLE POST 283
1994 SARASOTA BASEBALL CLUB
1995 SARASOTA BASEBALL CLUB
1996 GEORGE JENKINS, LAKELAND
1997 ORLANDO POST 286
1998 APOPKA BASEBALL CLUB
1999 TAMPA CATHOLIC POST 5
2000 PENSACOLA POST 33
2001 NORTH TAMPA POST 334
2002 LAKE BRANTLEY BASEBALL CLUB
2003 DUNEDIN POST 275
2004 OVIEDO BASEBALL CLUB
2005 OVIEDO BASEBALL CLUB
2006 OVIEDO BASEBALL CLUB
2007 DELAND POST 6
2008 JUPITER POST 271
2009 N/A
2010 DELTONA TRINITY
2011 STUART POST 62
2012 FORT PIERCE POST 358
2013 N/A
2014 N/A
2015 N/A

District and Area Organization and Map



Areas

- Northern - Districts 3, 4, 5 & 17**
- Central/West - Districts 1, 2, 6, 7, 15 & 16**
- Eastern - Districts 9, 11, 12 & 14**
- Southern - Districts 8 & 13**

Districts

- 1- Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton and Washington
- 2- Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla
- 3- Baker, Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Suwannee and Taylor.
- 4- Alachua, Bradford, Citrus, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion and Union
- 5- Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns
- 6- Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Sumter
- 7- Polk County and that portion of Pasco County East of Interstate Hwy 75
(The American Legion Highway)
- 8- Sarasota, Manatee, Highlands, DeSoto and Hardee, and to include Post 113 Rotonda West
- 9- Broward County
- 11- Palm Beach, Okeechobee and Clewiston from Hendry County, Indiantown from Martin County and that part of Martin County south of the St. Lucie River
- 12- Brevard, Indian River, Martin (except Indiantown and that part of Martin County south of the St. Lucie River) and St. Lucie
- 13- Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry (except Clewiston) and Lee, except Post 113 Rotonda West.
- 14- Dade and Monroe County
- 15- Hillsborough County, that portion of Pasco County, except New Port Richey, Hudson, Holiday and Seven Springs West of Interstate 75, (The American Legion Highway), and all of Hernando County
- 16- Pinellas County and New Port Richey, Hudson, Holiday and Seven Springs from West Pasco County
- 17- Flagler, Putnam, and Volusia

2015 - 2016 BASEBALL COMMITTEE

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

-  March 31 - Establishment of Players Legal Domicile.
-  April 15 - File Plan "A" Recruiting Zone Maps with Department.
-  May 15 - Insurance payment due
-  May 2-June 1 - \$200.00 fine if Insurance not paid*
-  June 2 - Team Applications, Insurance & Registration Fees
-  June 16 - Drop-Dead Date: Any team entry submitted after this date will not be eligible for Post-season play.
-  June 20 - All rosters are "FROZEN". Form #1 submitted to Area Chairmen. Minimum 12/Maximum 18
-  June 24 - Area Chairman must submit their approved rosters to Department Chairman

*unless you are a new team

STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

The Florida Baseball Committee has expressed its desire to adhere to the four (4) newly established political area boundaries which are established by the Department of Florida, However, for baseball team balance, some boundaries may be adjusted for the Championship play-off series. The following guidelines are established for 2015 - 2016.

The eight (8) **Senior** participating teams for 2016 shall be:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Northern Area Champion | 5. Eastern Area Champion |
| 2. Northern Area Runner Up | 6. Eastern Area Runner Up |
| 3. Central/Western Area Champion | 7. Southern Area Champion |
| 4. Central/Western Area Runner Up | 8. Southern Area Runner Up |

- A. **Senior Host Team:** In negotiations to have Senior State Championship in one permanent, central location. More information to follow.
- B. **Rotation System for Junior Host Team:** The Florida Baseball Committee had approved a rotation for the Junior "Host" team, however this system has not worked on a consistent basis. The Committee will review proposals to "host" the Junior Championship Tournament at its annual organizational meeting.
1. **2016 Host** – TBD
- C. **Territorial Play-Off Adjustments:** The Baseball Executive Committee has ruled that all "AREA" tournaments must participate in a minimum four (4) team qualifying tournaments in order to participate in the State Championship Tournament.

The Baseball Committee has made adjustments statewide to accommodate districts that have few participating teams. SEE PAGE 4 FOR THE TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS.

Department Championship Play No Department will be permitted to enter a team in a National Tournament unless an official Department Tournament was held, with two or more regularly certified teams participating.

1. At least eight teams must be officially certified in regular season play for a Department to enter a team in a National Tournament.

FLORIDA: The Department (State) Championship Tournament shall consist of eight (8) teams. These teams shall be: Four Area Champions and Four Area Runner Ups. NOTE: At the Executive Board meeting (10-10-98) a motion was made and passed that an "AREA" must have a minimum of four (4) registered teams to qualify a team for the Department Championship Tournament. If an area has less than four (4) registered teams within its area as of June 15th, the Baseball Chairman may re-designate teams from the nearest area to compete in a special tournament for State qualification. Junior: The "at-large" team at the State Tournament will be determined at the Florida Baseball Committee's annual organizational meeting.

D. District and/or Area Championship Tournaments: Championship play-off procedures will be established by the District and Area Baseball Chairmen. For most teams, seasonal and league play should not be affected by these adjustments.

Departmental (State) Tournament Senior Housing: For the Senior teams, Department will provide up to seven

A. (7) rooms that will sleep four (4) for each participating team that is required to travel over sixty (60) miles from the tournament site. Any additional rooms needed by the participating teams must be paid by the participating team.

NOTE: If a team reports to the state tournament with a limited roster, a lesser number of rooms may be provided.

NOTE: Each team that requires housing must place a security deposit of \$200.00 with the Department Chairman upon arrival. This deposit will be returned if no damage occurs at the lodging site.

B. Departmental (State) Junior Tournament Housing: Each Junior team will be responsible for their meals and housing. The Tournament Chairman will provide each participating team with a list of area motels and their room rates.

*****Each Junior team requiring housing (60 miles or more from the tournament site) will receive \$500.00 from the Department Baseball Committee and the Tournament "Host" to help defray expenses. An additional \$50.00 will be paid for each game played in excess of two (2). NOTE: This payment will only be paid after the Committee receives a "no damage" report from the local housing facility.*****

AMERICAN LEGION

Code of Sportsmanship

I will:

Keep the rules

Keep faith with my teammates

Keep my temper

Keep myself fit

Keep a stout heart in defeat

Keep my pride under in victory

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

FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION SENIOR STATE TOURNAMNET SCHEDULE

** Dates and Teams are still to be determined**

Thursday, July 2016

Game 1		9:30 AM
Game 2		12:30 PM
Game 3		3:30 PM
Game 4		7:00 PM

Friday, July 2016

Game 5-Loser Game 1	vs	Loser Game 3	9:30 AM Aux Field
Game 6-Loser Game 2	vs	Loser Game 4	12:30 PM Aux Field
Game 7-Winner Game 1	vs	Winner Game 3	9:30 AM
Game 8-Winner Game 2	vs	Winner Game 4	12:30 PM
Game 9-Winner Game 5	vs	Loser Game 7	4:00 PM
Game 10-Winner Game 6	vs	Loser Game 8	12:30 PM

Saturday, July 2016

Game 11-Winner Game 7	vs	Winner Game 8	10:30 AM
Game 12-Winner Game 10	vs	Loser Game 11	1:30 PM
Game 13-Winner Game 9	vs	Winner Game 11	4:30 PM

Sunday, July 2016

Game 14-Winner Game 12	vs	Winner Game 13	10:00 AM
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Game 15 will be needed if the Winner of Game 11 loses Game 12 or the Winner of Game 13 wins Game 14 – One hour after Game 14.

Pairing for Game 12 and 13 will not match previous opponents against each other unless absolutely necessary (Tournament Director has further instructions).

If three teams remain after Game 13, Winner Game 11 automatically draws the bye for Game 14.

FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR STATE TOURNAMNET SCHEDULE

** Dates and Teams are still to be determined**

Game 1			9:30 AM
Game 2			12:30 PM
Game 3			3:30 PM
Game 4			7:00 PM
Game 5-Loser Game 1	vs	Loser Game 3	9:30 AM Aux Field
Game 6-Loser Game 2	vs	Loser Game 4	12:30 PM Aux Field
Game 7-Winner Game 1	vs	Winner Game 3	9:30 AM
Game 8-Winner Game 2	vs	Winner Game 4	12:30 PM
Game 9-Winner Game 5	vs	Loser Game 7	4:00 PM
Game 10-Winner Game 6	vs	Loser Game 8	12:30 PM
Game 11-Winner Game 7	vs	Winner Game 8	10:30 AM
Game 12-Winner Game 10	vs	Loser Game 11	1:30 PM
Game 13-Winner Game 9	vs	Winner Game 11	4:30 PM
Game 14-Winner Game 12	vs	Winner Game 13	10:00 AM

Game 15 will be needed if the Winner of Game 11 loses Game 12 or the Winner of Game 13 wins Game 14 – One hour after Game 14.

Pairing for Game 12 and 13 will not match previous opponents against each other unless absolutely necessary (Tournament Director has further instructions).

If three teams remain after Game 13, Winner Game 11 automatically draws the bye for Game 14.

New Rules

Background Checks

All Coaches and Coaching Staff, District Chairmen, Area Representatives and any others who have contact with the boys, on a one on one basis, will have a yearly background check through Department Headquarters.

Bats – Wood & BBCOR

1. Wood bat.
 - a. The bat must be a smooth, rounded stick not more than 2¾ inches in diameter at its thickest part nor more than 42 inches in length.
 - b. An indentation in the end of the bat up to 1 inch in depth is permitted (cupped bats).
2. Non-wood bats. Metal, ceramic, composite or graphite bats may be used provided they do not exceed 36 inches in length and the maximum diameter is 25/8 inches.
3. Any non-wood bat must have the BBCOR certification code marked on the barrel of the bat.
4. Any non-wood bat that does not display the approved certification mark or in the umpire's judgment has been altered shall be removed from the game, and the player and team manager shall be ejected.

Transfer Rule

All transfers will be good for one year only beginning with returning players from the 2014 season.

Coaches Helmet Rule

Attention Coaches: The American Legion follows Official Baseball rules authorized by the Commissioner of Baseball; therefore American Legion coaches shall be mandated to wear a protective helmet. Coaches may wear a no-flap; a single flap or a double flap helmet. Coaches who fail to wear a protective helmet shall be confined to the dugout. This requirement applies to all spring training, championship season and post- season games.

The Commissioner's office will enforce this requirement strictly at all levels. Any violations of this regulation may result in fines or other discipline. Please make sure that all on-field and clubhouse personnel in your organization are aware of this new regulation.

Coaches Ball in Play Rule

Another new rule will mandate the coaches remain in the coach's box until the ball is put into play. (For safety reasons MLB will not allow coaches to creep towards home plate until the ball is in play). Coaches must have both feet inside the front of the coach's box. However if the coach wants to move away from the plate - out the back of the box, MLB will not mandate he remain in the box. MLB again considers this a safety rule. If a coach is outside the box (closer to home plate) he will be warned once and 2nd infraction he will be ejected. If he is out of the back of the coach's box this is not considered an infraction.



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

ARTICLE I - NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The official name of this organization shall be "The American Legion Baseball Association of the Department of Florida," here in after referred to as the "Association."

Section 2. The purpose of the Association:

- (A) To provide a baseball program through which all members of the Association may participate under a common set of rules, to the mutual benefit of all, and
- (B) To provide concrete and practical lessons of citizenship and sportsmanship by playing the American game of baseball, and
- (C) To provide for the safety of the participants.

Section 3. DEPARTMENT RULES CONTAINED HERE-IN, ARE SUPPLEMENTARY TO, AND NOT INTENDED TO CONFLICT WITH THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULES OF THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION. THE PURPOSE OF THESE RULES IS TO PROTECT AND STIMULATE THE COMPETITION OF AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

ARTICLE II - MANAGEMENT

Section 1. American Legion Baseball competition shall be played under the rules set forth and adopted by the National Americanism Commission and the Department of Florida Executive Baseball Committee.

Section 2. The Association shall be governed by the Department of Florida American Legion Executive Baseball Committee, here-in after referred to as the "Committee."

Section 3. The Committee shall pass upon the eligibility of players and teams and perform all necessary functions for the conduct of the American Legion Baseball program in the State of Florida as promulgated by the National Americanism Commission and the Department of Florida American Legion Executive Baseball Committee.

Section 4. The Department Executive Baseball Committee shall be comprised of seven (7) members approved by the Department Commander.

- (A) One (1) Department Baseball Committee Chairman.
- (B) Six (6) Committee Representatives - one from each of the six (6) official Department Areas.

NOTE: The Baseball Chairman may approve a "vice-chairman" for an area that geography makes it difficult for one chairman to supervise, or to assist the Area Chairman with the Junior Program.

ARTICLE III - INSURANCE

Section 1. 2016 American Legion Baseball insurance coverage will be accident coverage [Senior - \$235(yearly)/\$160(seasonal), Junior & Class C- \$205(yearly) /\$140(seasonal)] & liability coverage [Senior- \$158(yearly)/\$145(seasonal), Junior & Class C-\$100(yearly or seasonal)] Total [Senior - \$393(yearly) /\$305(seasonal), Junior & Class C-\$305(yearly)/\$240(seasonal)]. All teams must be covered by group accident and liability insurance for the entire season. Season starts on the first day of team try-outs. **PROOF OF SUCH COVERAGE MUST BE FILED WITH THE AREA CHAIRMAN WHEN REGISTERING YOUR TEAM. All teams' coverage must be with The American Legion National recommended carrier, S.A. Van Dyke Insurance of Oak Brook, IL.**

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All teams must have an approved recruiting area that meets the National and Departmental guidelines for team membership.

Section 2. All teams must have a "base school" or an approved recruiting "zone".

Section 3. All teams must submit a team registration form showing its base school and/or recruiting area, which shall be approved by the Area Chairman and certified by the Department Baseball Chairman.

Section 4. Teams may register as a Senior or Junior team according to guidelines established by the Department Baseball Committee.

ARTICLE V - REGISTRATION & CERTIFICATION

Section 1. Each team must have an American Legion Post as a sponsor or an approved outside sponsorship.

Section 2. Each team must submit a team entry application, regardless of class, and an entry fee as follows: Senior Teams - \$100 and Junior \$75 to National Headquarters. This will be used for any and all aspects of Florida Legion Baseball. A late entry application may be accepted as late as June 16, 2016 (postmarked) and must have a late fee payment of: Senior-\$25 and Junior \$10. Any application received after June 16, 2016 will not be eligible for post-season tournament play.

Section 3. Each team must submit to National Form 2 registration form on or before June 20th, of the current year. The Area Chairman shall review, approve and submit all Form 1s to the Department Baseball Chairman on or before June 25th of the current year. ALL ROSTERS ARE "FROZEN" AS OF JUNE 20TH AND ARE LIMITED TO EIGHTEEN PLAYERS.

- A. Form 1's must be CORRECTLY FILLED OUT by the listed date.
- B. DUPLICATE COPIES OF PLAYERS CERTIFICATES OF BIRTH MUST ACCOMPANY THE FORM

EACH TEAM THAT ADVANCES TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT MUST BRING THE ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATES TO PRESENT TO THE STATE CHAIRMAN AT THE STATE TOURNAMENT CHECK IN, PRIOR TO THE START OF TOURNAMENT PLAY.

- C. With the Department Chairman's approval, a roster may be adjusted in case of death or if a roster player or joins the armed forces.
- D. All teams advancing to the State Tournament must have participated in an Area Tournament of four (4) or more teams.

Section 5. PHOTOS: Each team must submit three (3) team photographs complete with identification when they check in for State Tournament play (photos must be 5 x 7 or 8 x 10). **TEAM PHOTO MUST BE CLEAR AND OF REPRODUCTION QUALITY.**

ARTICLE VI - SCHEDULES AND SCHEDULING

Section 1. Each "Area" shall adopt a format for league and tournament play that best meets their needs, according to the number of participating teams and travel distance.

Each "Area" shall hold an Area Organizational Meeting to distribute current Departmental Baseball information and to review its current membership.

Contact your Area Director for more information.

Section 2. Obligations of the Home Team:

- (A) Home team shall see that the field is properly prepared; lines are plainly marked and skin area is dragged.
- (B) Home team shall provide at least six (6) new baseballs per game.
- (C) See that the field is open and ready for play one (1) hour before game time for the visiting team.
- (D) See that umpires are aware of game site and time. Umpires are scheduled according to local league guidelines.
UMPIRES SHALL BE FAMILIAR WITH AMERICAN LEGION RULES AND GUIDELINES.
- (E) Home team shall be responsible for umpire fees for regular season play.
- (F) Home team shall provide a competent official scorekeeper.
- (G) Home team shall notify the visiting team as to the directions of their playing site.

Section 3. Obligations of Visiting Team:

- (A) Start for the game destination early enough to be at the site of the game at least one (1) hour before game time, in order to complete pre-game drills and deliver legible line up to official scorekeeper.

Section 4. League games postponed shall be rescheduled as soon as possible.

ARTICLE VII - FORFEITURE

Section 1. Teams forfeiting league games or refusing to complete their schedule may be suspended from the league and forfeit any monies paid and their position in the league.

Section 2. Teams not completing their league schedule may be suspended from post-season tournament play.

ARTICLE VIII - PROTESTING GAMES

Section 1. On a game that is protested by the coach, he shall notify the umpire in chief or plate umpire at once of his protest. The umpire must in turn notify the opposing coach and the game is then completed.

Section 2. An official protest must be filed in writing by the coach within 24 hours after completion of the game to the League Chairman. A filing fee of \$25.00 shall accompany the protest. If the protest is allowed, the fee is returned. If not allowed, the fee is put in the Baseball Committee's General Fund. If the fee does not accompany the protest, no action will be taken.

Section 3. Protests on judgment calls will not be considered.

Section 4. Step 1: All requests for interpretation or appeal of American Legion Baseball rules must be in writing (telegrams are considered as being in writing) to the Area Baseball Chairman.

Step 2: If there can be no resolution at that level, the request for interpretation or appeal may be forwarded to the Baseball Committee Chairman.

NOTE: The Florida Department Committee Chairman will make the final decision on all Junior appeals.

Step 3: For a Senior protest, if there can be no resolution at the state level, the request for interpretation or appeal may be forwarded to the National Appeals Board at National Headquarters by the Department Chairman.

<p>NOTE: Should any coach, player, manager, or any party associated with American Legion Baseball appeal directly to the National Americanism Commission and forego steps 1 & 2 of the appeal procedure - it in itself shall be considered a violation of this rule and the person or parties may be removed from further participation in American Legion Baseball.</p>

ARTICLE IX - PLAYING REGULATIONS - RULE I

All games shall be governed by the Official Baseball Rules published by The Sporting News, except as follows:

A. Uniforms. Teams must be in identical uniforms for league, Department (State) and National Championship, play.

1. The American Legion Baseball Insignia must be worn on the LEFT sleeve or LEFT chest of the uniform shirt. Players and/or coaches not wearing the ALB insignia during game play will be removed from the game. The Department Baseball Committee voted that all participating players must properly display the "official" baseball insignia on their uniform for "ALL" games starting in 2004.

NOTE: Baseball patches may be obtained from the American Legion Emblem Sales website (<http://emblem.legion.org/Baseball/departments/346/>) at a cost of \$1.50 per patch.

2. The front of the uniform shirt may carry lettering that identifies the Post, Department, town, city, community or sponsor that the team represents. Such lettering must be acceptable to the sponsoring Department.
3. The back of each player's uniform shirt must display a number at least six inches tall.

B. Coaching Boxes. Players and coaches who are registered on the National Registration Form #1 are permitted on the coaching lines. Coaches and players must be in like uniforms in order to go on the playing field during National competition. Additional coaches not listed on the Form #1 must be approved by the league or tournament director.

C. Games per day. Under no circumstances will any team be required to play more than two 9 inning games in one day. Playing days will begin at 8:00 AM, local time. **NOTE:** Any game started on one day and carried over to the next day - player and game records will be credited to the day the game started.

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

1. Bat boys or girls must wear a double-flapped, ear-protective helmet while on the playing field.
2. All batting helmets must have the NOCSAE seal of approval stamped on the helmet, and such seal must be visible on the outside of the helmet.

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

1. Any catcher's mask that does not have an extended throat protector of at least 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.
2. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, a catcher must wear a mask. Any player who refuses to do so shall be ejected from the game.

F. Senior Pitching. No player may pitch more than a total of 12 innings during any consecutive three-day period. No player may make more than four appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period. **Penalty: Game shall be forfeited if a protest is filed with the umpire in chief before the last out of the game.**

1. Should a double or triple play cause a pitcher to exceed the permitted 12 innings in three consecutive days, that action in and of itself, shall not be construed as a violation of this rule.
2. Any pitcher may be relieved from the pitching position and remain in the game at another position. However, a pitcher will be automatically removed when a coach makes two trips to the mound in the same inning, and that pitcher cannot return as a pitcher in that game. **Penalty for violating this rule: Forfeiture of the game if a protest is filed with the umpire in chief before the last out of the game.**
3. **Clarification:** 12.1 innings must be recorded by the official scorekeeper for the purpose of this rule.

G. National Tournament Rules. The National Americanism Division may prescribe such rules for the playing of any National tournament as it considers necessary. Copies of those rules are delivered to the Department Championship Team Manager via the Department Chairman at the conclusion of the Department Championship game.

FLORIDA: Current State, tournament brackets are located on pages 11-12.

H. Insurance Rule. Every American Legion Baseball team must purchase both group liability and accident insurance from The American Legion's agent of record (S.A. VAN DYK). Coverage must be purchased NO LATER THAN MAY 1st. Should a team miss the established deadline, they will be assessed a late fee of \$200.00 payable to Department. Proof of such coverage must be submitted to the Department Baseball Committee at the time of registration. **Any team who fails to purchase insurance by June 1st from the agent of record shall be disqualified from any further competition.**

FLORIDA: Senior and Junior teams must be covered by both accident and liability insurance.

I. First Aid Kit Rule. Each team must have a first aid kit at each game.

J. Bat Rule. BBCOR certified or wood bats, as described below, can be used in Senior and Junior League games including playoffs.

1. The maximum length is 36 inches and the maximum diameter is 2 5/8 inches.
2. The knob and end plug (if applicable) must be firmly attached.
3. A bat may not weigh, numerically, more than three units less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 34-inch long bat cannot weigh less than 31 ounces).
4. A non-wood bat must have a BBCOR approved, coded certification mark on the barrel of the bat signifying the bat is legal for NCAA competition.
5. For all games and practice use, all non-wood bats must have leather, rubber or taped grip securely attached to the bat handle.
6. Any bat that fails to meet these specifications, or in the umpire's judgment has been altered to affect the distance factor or cause an unusual reaction on the baseball, shall be removed from the game. The batter shall be declared out. Base runners shall not advance.

K. On Deck Equipment. 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. Sledge hammers, weighted pipes and other heavy paraphernalia are not permitted. Safety of other players and spectators is paramount. Unsafe devices cannot be used.

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

FLORIDA: Umpires are also expected to abide by the tobacco rule.

M. Blood Rule. (See NCAA Rule Book for Interpretations) Any player who suffers from a laceration or when blood is visible, the game shall be stopped at the earliest possible time and the athlete must be treated immediately. If the bleeding requires extensive treatment, a substitute shall replace the injured player. (Umpires are directed to give reasonable amount of time to allow injured player to be treated.) **No reentry is allowed during Tournament Play.**

N. Collision Rule. (See NCAA Rule Book for Interpretations) The American Legion National Baseball Subcommittee 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.

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

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

Ruling 2: If the collision by the runner was **flagrant**,

- a. The runner shall be declared out and ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead.
- b. 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.

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.

Clarification

Malicious Contact - Any player who, in the judgment of the umpire, maliciously runs into another player is automatically ejected and is declared out. The American Legion 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, to avoid making contact with the catcher, especially when the defender is in possession of the ball. 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 ejected from the game. The malicious contact penalty will be enforced whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. Any player ejected by an umpire is automatically removed from the Tournament, unless the Tournament Director reinstates that player.

O. Force-Play Slide Rule. (See NCAA Rule Book for Interpretation) The intent of the force-play slide rule is to ensure the safety of the defensive player. This is a safety rule, as well as an interference rule. This rule pertains to a force-play situation regardless of the number of outs.

1. On a force play at any base, including home plate, the runner must slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases. This is a legal slide even if contact is made with the fielder.

- a. On the ground can either be a headfirst 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. *(A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the individual slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the defensive player.)*
2. Contact is allowed if the runner:
 - a. Makes a legal slide directly to the base, or
 - b. Is on the ground at the time of contact and the fielder moves directly down the line between the two bases to attempt a play. Interference shall not be called.
 3. It is an illegal slide if:
 - a. The runner slides or runs out of the base line in the direction of the fielder.
 - b. The runner uses a rolling, cross-body or pop-up slide into a fielder. *(A pop-up slide is a legal slide as long as the runner does not make contact with, or alter the play of the fielder.)*
 - c. The runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position.
 - d. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg, or
 - e. The slide is flagrant. *(If the runner's slide is flagrant, the individual shall be ejected from the game.)*
 4. If the runner, on a force play, makes an illegal slide at any base, including home plate, interference shall be called. **PENALTY - 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. With two outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.**

FLORIDA: Any player or coach ejected by an umpire during the regular season must sit out the following game. At the State Tournament, he must be reinstated by the Tournament Director after sitting out a minimum of one game.

P. 10-Run Rule. All American Legion games shall utilize a 10-run rule after seven innings, unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 6 1/2 innings.

FLORIDA: For all seven (7) inning games during regular season play, or "B" Team Tournaments, the ten run rule shall apply after five innings.

Q. Designated Hitter Rule. All Senior State and National Tournaments shall utilize the **American League Designated Hitter Rule.** (See page 32, section 2A)

The Junior program may utilize the **National High School Federation Designated Hitter Rule**, with one exception: The American Legion does not permit re-entry to a game during post-season tournament play, therefore the DH may not re-enter the game during post season tournament play.

R. The Department Baseball Committee discourages the wearing of any jewelry such as earrings, necklaces, and bracelets that may cause an injury.

S. Speed-Up Rule: In Departmental play the "speed-up rule" will not be utilized in Senior game play, however, it may be utilized in Junior game play by use of a non-participating player to run for the catcher as soon as he reaches base. The speed-up rule is optional. Speed-up Rule may not be used in State or National Tournament play.

- S. Dual Participation:** American Legion Baseball players or teams may participate in other amateur baseball programs provided that dual participation will not in any way interfere with a player's responsibility to American Legion Baseball.
- a. During the regular season, a coach must determine if he will permit one of his players to dual participate in another baseball program.
 - b. If a player participates in another baseball program's qualifying tournaments, tryout camps, area games, showcases or any other baseball programs that have conflicting dates with the American Legion Championship Play-offs, he or she will be ruled ineligible to participate in the American Legion Championship Tournaments at any level.
 - c. American Legion Baseball championship play is not an "All-Star" program and encourages participants to devote their time and energies to their local team. In addition to being registered on the National Form #1 by June 20th, a position player must have participated in a minimum of eight (8) American Legion games prior to district or area tournaments. A pitcher who only pitches must have participated in a minimum of three (3) American Legion Baseball games prior to district or area tournaments.

Coaches must be able to verify these requirements by having their scorebooks available upon request. Coaches may appeal these requirements for medical reasons only.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS - RULE 2

A. Players Age. American Legion Baseball competition in 2016 is open only to players born on or after **January 1, 1997**. This makes 19 year old players eligible for the 2016 season if they were on the 2015 roster.

FLORIDA: Junior competition in 2016 is open only to players who were born on or after **January 1, 1999** and who have at least one year of high school eligibility in 2014-15 school year. Junior players must be 17 years of age or younger on **January 1, 2016**.

B. Player's Domicile. A player's legal domicile shall be established before **March 31, 2016**.

1. A player's domicile shall be his parents or permanent court-appointed guardian's permanent and legal domicile.

Clarification

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).

2. If the parents are divorced or legally separated by a Court Order, that player may play for a team of either parent's legal and permanent domicile provided:
 - a. The player must declare, in writing, the team of his choice and file that declaration with the Department Chairman prior to the Department closing date. The player's declaration shall be final and valid for the remainder of the player's eligibility. The completing of National Form #2, shall be proof of the player's choice.
3. The American Legion does not allow emancipated players (18 years of age or older) to be "free agents". They are required to play for the team nearest their parents domicile or the team they last played for.

Clarification

The enrollment of the school, in which a player is enrolled on March 31st shall be counted. The completing of a National Form #2, shall be proof of the player's choice. Once a player qualified and plays for a team under Rule 2.B.2, that player is not eligible to qualify for Rule 4.E (transfer Rule). The player's eligibility is tied to that team once he competes for the team of his choice.

4. In the event that both parents are deceased, or incapable of caring for and supervising the player during minority, the player's domicile will be determined by the domicile of the permanent legal guardian appointed by the Courts having jurisdiction to make such an appointment.

5. Should a situation arise which is not covered by the provision of this rule, the Department Chairman will, with the concurrence of the National Appeals Board, determine the player's legal domicile for the purpose of his participation in the American Legion Baseball Program. Such decision shall be in writing and filed with National Headquarters.

FLORIDA: Established public school boundaries are used in establishing the recruiting zones for each team. If an area has "open" enrollment, the Department Baseball Committee may establish recruiting boundaries or zones.

C. Professional Baseball Contract. Players who are 18 years of age may be signed to a professional baseball contract in accordance with the provisions of Professional Baseball. It is important that teams select and register players that will complete their obligation to the American Legion Team. Any player who signs a professional contract on or after July 1st **cannot** be replaced on the National Form #1. Professional teams may sign a player at any time.

D. Amateur rule. Competition is open to amateurs. To be amateurs, players must not:

1. Receive money, favors or gratuities, direct or indirect, for playing baseball.
2. Accept money or favors for reimbursement for time lost at work while playing, or for expenses incurred while playing.
3. Participate in an all-star baseball game that is not approved by the authorized Department Official.
4. Accept, directly or indirectly, money or any favors by anyone for their baseball services, past or present.
 - a. This also applies to a player's parents, trustees, guardians, etc.
5. Try out for any professional team without the written permission of their American Legion Baseball coach or Post Commander. (Professional Baseball Rule 3-(I) governs tryouts and merits of contracting with professional clubs.)

(NOTE: Departments, Districts or Posts planning an all-star game should contact their state high school athletic association to clarify each player's high school eligibility.)

E. Birth Certificates. Records of birth must be an original or a certified document from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or Department of Health or other governmental agency authorized to certify birth documents.

1. Notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital records, baptismal records, school records or certificates **are not acceptable** proof of age and will disqualify a player and/or the team for Regional or National Tournaments.
2. In case of foreign birth, a player will present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service or by the Department of State that shows the birth date of the bearer. Official birth certificates issued by a foreign country are acceptable when accompanied by a letter with an English translation, and such birth certificate must have an official seal.
3. A Court Certified copy of that portion of permanent legal adoption papers showing the place and date of a player's birth shall be acceptable in cases involving adopted players.

FLORIDA: Certified copies of a player's birth certificate or Florida Driver's License must accompany the Form 1 on or prior to June 20th. The Area Chairman must collect and review the original birth certificates at each Area Tournament. The originals must accompany the winning team throughout championship play. Exception: If a team has obtained a legal official player registration card, it may be used in lieu of the original birth certificate.

PLAYER RECRUITING PLAN "A" - RULE 3 - ZONING

Plan "A" recruiting rules are based on zones (territory) and are usually designed for large cities where Plan "B" base school recruiting would be impractical. Under Plan "A" rules, a specific zone is drawn on a map. The secondary

school enrollments shall be **5,000** students or less. Secondary school enrollments in a territory are added up and divided by **5,000** to determine the number of zones. For example, if in a territory there are 10,257 students (10th, 11th & 12th grades); the number of students is divided by 5,000 (enrollment cap), which equals 2.55, which will require a minimum of three (3) zones be established. Players whose parents' domicile is within this zone must play for the team in this zone, unless waived to an adjacent zone. All zoning is subject to approval by the National Americanism Commission. (NOTE: If waived to an adjacent zone, the combined zones enrollment may not exceed **5,000** students.)

A. Zoning. Zoning of cities, counties and/or school districts may be requested by a team(s).

1. The Department Baseball Committee shall review and approve requests for such zoning.
 - a. It shall be the responsibility of the Department Baseball Committee to forward zone maps for final approval to the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division before **April 15, 2016**.
2. A detailed street map showing specific boundaries, as well as the locations and enrollment figures of all high schools must accompany such requests.
3. If a team's boundaries are changed, a new map and letter of explanation must be submitted for approval prior to **April 15, 2016**.

<p>FLORIDA: All zones in Florida are subject to be reviewed each year by the Department Baseball Committee. <u>ALL ZONES MUST BE LIMITED TO A SPECIFIC BOUNDARY.</u></p>

B. Player Recruiting. A Post may select players whose parent's domicile was established in their zone on or before **March 31, 2016** and players whose parents have moved and established a new domicile in their zone after **March 31, 2016**.

1. Players not selected to play with the team in their zone may play for the NEXT NEAREST Plan A team provided the player has obtained a written transfer (form #76) from the team manager in their zone and the combined school enrollment of **5,000** or less.
2. Players in their final year of eligibility whose parents have established a new domicile shall have the option of playing for their old team or playing for the new team of their parent's new domicile.
 - a. A written request must be filed with, and approved by, the Department Chairman prior to listing the player on the National Form #1. This request must be accompanied by the parent's affidavit stating that the move is permanent and listing the previous and present domicile addresses.
3. In the event a new team is formed and new zones are established that change a player's eligibility, those players previously registered on National Form #1 are permitted a one-time option of playing for the team of their old zone or playing for the team of their new zone.
 - a. Zones must be adjacent to each other.
 - b. Transfers are permitted only when the combined enrollment of all zones is less than **5,000**.
 - c. Transfers shall be final and valid for the player's remaining eligibility, unless there is a permanent change of address of the parents' domicile.
 - d. The Department Baseball Chairman must approve all transfers prior to listing the player on the National Form #1.
 - e. A written request for a transfer must be filed with, and approved by, an authorized baseball official prior to listing the player on the National Form #1. (This request must be accompanied by the parent affidavit stating that the move is permanent and listing the previous and present domicile addresses.)
4. A written request for a transfer must be filed with, and approved by, an authorized baseball official prior to listing the player on the National Form #1

PLAYER RECRUITING - PLAN "B" - RULE 4

Plan "B" allows Legion Baseball teams to select players from nearby high schools. High schools are combined to form a recruiting area. A player, whose parents' domicile is nearest a base school, is eligible to try out and play for the team if the player meets all other eligibility requirements and the combined enrollment of the recruiting area (combination of schools) does not exceed **5,000** students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

Plan "B" recruiting rules are more flexible but more complex than the Plan "A" (zoning) rules. Study these rules carefully.

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

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

B. Player Recruiting. Teams may select players who are enrolled on **March 31, 2016**, in any public, private, technical, vocational, regional, or preparatory high school, or any combination of these schools.

1. Existing teams may request a new combination of schools from the Department Baseball Committee; however, approval must be given prior to listing any player on the National Form #1.
2. Teams may not recruit a player(s) from another team's base school.

Clarification

Teams may select:

1. Non-base school players whose parent's or guardian's domicile is nearest the team's base school.
2. Players who qualify under Rule 4.C.
3. The combined total enrollment of the schools cannot exceed **5,000** students for 10th, 11th and 12th grades. All schools enrollments must be counted except for 9th grades, middle schools or junior high schools.
 - a. Single gender student body school's enrollment must be doubled. (Example: In a 1,000 all-male school, that enrollment shall be counted as 2,000).
4. Enrollment for a school(s) is determined using the number of 10th, 11th and 12th grade students officially recorded on **March 31, 2016**, by the State Board of Education or other state agency that has jurisdiction over school enrollment. Note: Every student registered shall be counted; including special education students, physically challenged students, bilingual students, and students over the age of 19.
5. When single high school enrollment exceeds **5,000** students, the team that has such school as its base school shall not recruit from any other school.

C. "Option" Rule. Players attending a high school (including 9th grade freshmen), outside a team's recruiting area may have the option of playing for the team nearest the high school the player attends or playing for the team nearest the parent's legal domicile. The enrollment of all schools of which a player is recruited is counted.

Clarification

If the parents' domicile is located in a base school recruiting area, that base school is considered the next nearest team.

1. The player must complete National Declaration Form #77 on which the player declares in writing the team for which he wishes to play.

- a. Such election shall be final and valid for the remaining player eligibility (unless that player changes school or domicile). Such declaration is final and permanent.
- b. The team manager must forward Form #77 to the Department Baseball Chairman prior to listing the player on the National Form #1.

Clarification

Players who qualify under Rule 4.C and play for a team, are not eligible in future years to qualify for Transfer Rule 4.E.

Clarification

The school enrollment for middle schools, junior high schools and high school freshman classes shall not be counted.

D. Middle School and Junior High Students. These players shall play for the base school team of their parent's legal domicile. A non-base school player shall play for the team nearest their parent's legal domicile. Enrollment of the school attended shall not be counted.

E. Transfer Rule. A player released from a team must obtain permission on ALB Form 76 from that team's manager to play for the team that is closest to his parents' domicile.

1. To determine the nearest team from among several schools, A COMPUTER STREET ATLAS program shall be used. The measurement is from the base school address to the parents' (domicile) address.
2. The player must provide Transfer Form #76 to the new team manager, which must be forwarded to the authorized Department Baseball Official for approval, prior to listing the player on the Form #1.
 - a. All transfers shall be good for one year only.
3. Any transfers across state lines require mutual written permission of both Department Chairmen.
 - a. The Baseball Executive Committee elected not to approve any transfers across state lines to participate in a Junior program.
 - b. The Baseball Executive Committee elected not to approve any Senior transfers across state lines that exceed 40 miles between a base school address and the players legal domicile.
4. Players who have qualified and who have played for another Legion team under Rule 4.C are not eligible for a transfer under Rule 4.E.

F. School Enrollment Expansion. Players who are unable to complete their eligibility because enrollment expansion eliminated their school from previously approved combinations, may continue on the team for which they last played, provided no new players are recruited from their school.

1. Written permission for a player to continue under these circumstances must be obtained from the Department Baseball Chairman prior to listing the player on the National Form #1.
2. Teams cannot form different combinations of schools.

G. Change of Address. Players who realize a permanent change in their parents' or guardians' domicile shall be eligible to compete for the team nearest their parents' new domicile.

1. A notarized statement from the player's parents must list previous address and new permanent address. Written permission must be obtained from the authorized Department Baseball Official in which the "new" team is located prior to listing the player on the National Form #1.
 - a. If released, a player may be transferred to the next nearest team as provided for in Rule 4.E. (Transfer Rule).
2. The enrollment of their previous high school, as of **March 31, 2016** shall be counted.

H. Final Year of Eligibility. Players who have one year of eligibility remaining whose parents move out of the team's recruiting area, shall have an option of playing for the team nearest their parent's new domicile or returning to their former team.

1. The enrollment of the high school the player attends on **March 31, 2016** shall be counted.
2. Written permission to play for previous team must be obtained from the Department Baseball Chairman prior to listing the player on the National Form #1.

I. Home-Schooled Players. A player who is home-schooled may compete for the team nearest their parents or guardians legal domicile.

1. Written permission for such competition must be obtained from the Authorized Department Baseball Official prior to listing the player on the National Form #1.
2. Enrollment figures for such players shall be that of the high school boundary of his parents' domicile.

J. New Team Formation. In the event a new Legion team is formed which is nearer to a player's parent's domicile, that player has a onetime option of playing with the team for which he last played or for the new team.

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

SPORTSMANSHIP & CONDUCT - RULE 5

A. Conduct. Managers, coaches or players who, in the opinion of the Department Chairman or his representative, conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner that would discredit this program may be removed by the Department Baseball Committee. The Department Baseball Committee's decision will be final.

- a. Coaches and players participating in Invitational or Championship Tournaments may be disqualified from tournament play by displaying unacceptable conduct at the hotel, restaurants or other public areas away from the playing field.
- b. The use, consumption, possession, distribution, or being under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol while participating in an American Legion Baseball event will result in immediate suspension, and proper authorities will be notified.

B. Heckling. No player, coach, manager or other party associated with an American Legion Baseball team shall abuse, heckle or make uncomplimentary remarks to opposing players, team officials or umpires. An individual violating this regulation **shall be ejected immediately** from the game by the umpire.

C. Sportsmanship. Any player, coach, manager or other party accompanying a team will be **EJECTED** for the remainder of the game from the time of the infraction, if they:

1. Use profane language.
2. Make unnecessary or obscene gestures in protesting an umpire's decision. (Only team managers or coaches may ask for a clarification of a rule; they may never argue.)
3. Throw bats or other equipment.
4. Make unnecessary or obscene gestures to fans or opposing players.
5. Resort to unnecessary roughness on the playing field.

D. Reinstatement. During a National Tournament, any player, coach or manager suspended from a game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct is suspended for the balance of the tournament unless reinstated by the National Tournament Director. The National Tournament Director's decision is final.

E. Ejection from the Ball Park. Any player, coach or manager ejected by an umpire must leave the ball park.

F. Fight Rule. The Baseball Committee believes there is no place in American Legion Baseball for physical abuse

of officials or fighting among opponents. A fight rule penalizes offending team representatives (e.g., players, coaches, trainers, managers) for physical abuse or fighting. However, coaches must understand that they are responsible for the actions of their players. Cooperation is needed from players, coaches, administrators and game officials to prevent fighting and physical abuse.

The penalties for this rule must be enforced at all times. When applying this rule, penalties shall carry over from regular season to post season competition.

Approved Ruling - When applying the suspension rule, penalties shall be served for the team's next regularly scheduled contest(s). If a previously scheduled game has been postponed or halted, that make-up game against the originally scheduled opponent shall count as a regularly scheduled contest.

1. Fighting - Any physical abuse of an opposing player, including attempting to strike with the arms, hands, legs, feet or equipment in a combative manner.
2. Physical Abuse of Game Officials (Umpires) - Any threat of physical intimidation or harm to include pushing, shoving, kicking, throwing at or attempting to make physical contact.

PENALTY for 1. And 2. - If a player, coach or team representative is ejected from a contest because of physically abusing an official or fighting an opposing player, the following shall be enforced:

- a. For the first offense by an individual, ejection plus suspension from the team's next contest.
- b. For a second offense by an individual in the same season, ejection and suspension for the remainder of the season, including post season competition.
- c. Procedures for enforcing penalties are as follows:
 1. After an ejection and suspension, the offending individual must leave the field and dugout area immediately and is not allowed to communicate with team members or the umpires.
 2. Suspended personnel shall not be in uniform, allowed in any team area or perform any team duty while serving their suspensions.
 3. It is the responsibility of the team's head coach and/or team manager to administer and enforce the suspension penalty. If a suspended player or coach is found to have participated in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game will be forfeited by the offending team.
 4. If the penalty occurs during the team's last game of the season, a one-game penalty will be assessed at the beginning of the next season.

DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION - RULE 6

A. Department Rules and Regulations. It is the duty of the Department (State) Baseball Committee (before the start of the season) to formulate rules, regulations and boundaries that are not in conflict with National Rules for all play within that Department.

1. DEPARTMENT RULES MAY BE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN NATIONAL RULES.
2. Such Department Rules will include rules of procedure for protests. (The protection and stimulation of competition must be used in setting these regulations.)
3. A copy of the Department Rules must be filed with National Headquarters before April 15, 2016.

B. Department Chairman's Rulings. All questions, disputes and protests within a Department shall be decided by the Department Baseball Committee.

1. The Department Committee shall have the authority to disqualify or suspend anyone violating a Department or National Rule.

C. National Player Eligibility Rules Interpretations. Interpretations of National Rules will be made by the representative of the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division.

1. All requests for interpretations must be in writing. Telegrams and Fax copies are considered to be written requests.
2. All requests must be sent through the authorized Department Baseball Chairman. Interpretations will be routed back through that official.
3. Any person who bypasses the Department Chairman and violates this rule is subject to the discipline of the Department Baseball Committee, which may include suspension and/or a fine.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS - RULE 7

A. National Tournament Registration. The Department Championship team must be certified by its authorized Department Baseball Official and certification must be sent to the National Americanism Division postmarked no later than midnight on August 7, 2016.

1. National Headquarters will only be financially responsible for a maximum of 18 players and two adults registered on National Form #1.

B. National Competition. Tournament competition is open only to teams that have registered with the State Baseball Committee whose responsibility it is to file the original ALB National Form #1 with the Baseball Section, The American Legion, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204, postmarked no later than July 15, 2016, in accordance with Department regulations.

FLORIDA: All rosters must be submitted in accordance to Article V when participating for the Department of Florida. Rosters are due to State Chairman on or before June 20th, as the determined by the State Chairman.

C. National Tournament Supervision. All National tournaments will be played under the supervision of the National Americanism Commission. All disputes and questions shall be referred to the National Tournament Director. Any situation not specifically covered by National rules or regulations will be referred to the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division. The decision of the National Division shall be final.

D. Tournament Photographs. Department Baseball Officials are required to furnish National Headquarters and the Local Regional Tournament Chairman with two glossy (color) photographs, 5" x 7" of the Department Championship team with players and coaches identified. The Department Chairman must express mail to the Local Regional Tournament host, two photographs, no later than August 5, 2016 to insure the Championship team's photo will appear in the Regional Tournament souvenir program and local newspaper.

1. Digital photographs are acceptable if resolution is at least 300 dpi and if a disc accompanies two (2) high quality copies of the digital photo.

FLORIDA: Team photos must be submitted at the State Tournament. Photos must be of reproduction quality.

E. Department Championship Play. No Department will be permitted to enter a team in a National Tournament unless an official Department Tournament was held, with two or more regularly certified teams participating.

1. At least eight teams must be officially certified in regular season play for a Department to enter a team in a National Tournament. During orientation all team players MUST attend or, with permission, be there before (1st pitch of the 1st game) opening of the scheduled opening time.

FLORIDA: The Department (State) Championship Tournament shall consist of eight (8) teams. These teams shall be: Four (4) Area Champions and Four (4) Area Runner Up Teams. NOTE: At the Executive Board meeting (10-10-98) a motion was made and passed that an "AREA" must have a minimum of four (4) registered teams to qualify a team for the Department Championship Tournament. If an area has less than four (4) registered teams within its area as of June 15th, the Baseball Chairman may re-designate teams from the nearest area to compete in a special tournament for State qualification.

F. Regional Tournament Host. No Regional host team shall be denied the opportunity of winning earlier championships at the County, District or Department levels. Nor shall any team hosting a Department or National Regional Tournament refuse to participate in County, District, Area or Department Tournaments.

G. Player Eligibility Protest. Eligibility protests of players involved in National Tournaments must bear written proof of ineligibility and must be filed with the National Tournament Director at each such tournament no later than 9:00 a.m. local time on the first day of the tournament involved, except on the discovery of fraud. When fraud is discovered, the eligibility protest and a written description of the alleged fraud must be filed immediately. All other protests shall be filed as specified in the Official Baseball Rules. The Sporting News.

H. National Tournament Play. Teams competing in National Tournaments will play every day.

1. The National Tournament Director has complete instructions concerning an eight team pool play and tiebreaking system.
2. No National Tournament games will begin after 11:00 p.m., local time.
3. Minimum Active Players: Teams competing in American Legion Baseball National Tournaments must have 12 players available for participation. Teams with less than 12 players will forfeit their right to participate and the National Appeals Board, in consultation with the Department Baseball Chairman, shall determine a suitable replacement team. This rule shall not apply to host teams at National Regional Tournaments.

I. Aerosol Air Horn Prohibited. The National Americanism Commission has an established policy that prohibits aerosol-can air horns at all times.

1. Fans who operate such air horns will be asked not to do so. A second warning will cause those fans to be removed from the stands.

NATIONAL BASEBALL APPEAL BOARD - RULE 8

A. National Appeal Board. There is a National Baseball Appeal Board (hereafter referred to as "the board") composed of (1) the Chairman of the National Americanism Commission; (2) Chairman of the Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee; and (3) a third member appointed by the chairman of the National Americanism Commission. The chairman shall also appoint two alternate members to the board to act in the absence or unavailability of one or more of the board members. The term of office for board members and alternate members shall be one year.

B. Time Limit. An appeal filed under this rule must be made within 24 hours of the time when the interpretation of the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division is issued. Such appeal may be made by telegram, Fax, or mail-a-gram and shall state the precise points of contention that are the basis for the appeal. If an appeal is not filed within 24 hours to the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division, interpretation will not be considered.

C. Filing An Appeal. All appeals must be in writing and addressed to The American Legion, National Baseball Appeal Board, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. Faxes are acceptable when sent in by the Department Baseball Chairman or Department Adjutant. National Headquarters Fax Number is (317) 630-1369. Internet Address: ACY@LEGION.ORG

D. Final Authority. The board shall have sole jurisdiction over any appeal filed following a decision involving American Legion Baseball rule interpretations rendered by the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division. The decision of the board shall be final and may be enforced by a court of law. The concurrence of a majority of the members of the board shall constitute the final determination of the board.

FLORIDA: The Florida Department Baseball Committee shall be the FINAL AUTHORITY regarding all Junior Teams.

E. Approved Interpretations. Interpretations rendered by the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division during tournaments supervised by National Headquarters shall be approved by the National Baseball Appeal Board before publication.

F. Appeal Procedure. No appeal shall be considered by the National Baseball Appeal Board until all established appeal procedures within the respective Department's rules have been exhausted, as certified in writing by the Department Baseball Chairman.

JUNIOR TEAM REGULATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR BASEBALL COMPETITION SHALL BE PLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES SET FORTH AND ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION FOR CLASS "A" COMPETITION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THESE SPECIAL RULES ADOPTED BY THE FLORIDA BASEBALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Section 1. The Junior baseball program was organized to complement the Senior program and not to compete against the National Program.

Section 2. FLORIDA: Junior competition in 2016 is open only to players born on or after **January 1, 1999**, who have one (1) or more years of high school eligibility.

Section 3. The Junior program will compete for a Department of Florida State Championship only. The National program does not recognize a Junior division at this time.

(A) All requests for rule interpretations or appeals are finalized by the Department Baseball Committee.

ALL JUNIOR TEAMS NOT AFFILIATED WITH A CLASS "A" TEAM MUST RECEIVE A WAIVER FROM THE DEPARTMENT BASEBALL CHAIRMAN AND NOT BE IN CONFLICT WITH ANOTHER EXISTING TEAM.

Section 4. Regardless of the plan used to form a Junior team, a Junior team may not play a college student or a student who was not in high school during the current year.

Section 5. A Junior team may be organized under two (2) different guidelines. Each guideline is organized for two (2) different situations and is not to be confused with each other.

(A) Plan 1: A Junior team may be comprised of players that failed to be selected by the local Class "A" team. Junior players may be recruited from the same schools as the "A" team, but are limited to the following:

1. No eighteen (18) year old players as of January 1, 1997.
2. Players must meet all other American Legion Baseball requirements.

(B) Plan 2: A Junior team may be organized from any one (1) individual school or combination of schools provided the combined enrollment of the combination of schools does not exceed **5,000** students in the

10th, 11th and 12th grades, in which all its players have one (1) or more years of high school eligibility remaining for the 2016 school year and who have not reached their 18th birthday prior to **January 1, 2016**.

1. This team may not conflict with an established Class "A" team that exists within the same school zone.
2. Teams under Plan 2 may be recruited from more than one (1) school.
3. Players must meet all other American Legion Baseball requirements.

NOTE: The Department Baseball Committee is very definite that if a Junior team (under Plan 1 or Plan 2) is organized within the recruiting area of an established Class "A" team (after the Class "A" tryouts) the Class "A" team may still "draw" a maximum of (2) players from the Junior team any time prior to June 20th of the current year.

1. If a player refuses to "move up", he becomes ineligible to compete in the Junior District and State Tournaments.
2. If a "B" team manager or coach refuses to cooperate with an "A" team manager, it-in-itself shall be considered a violation of this rule and may be removed from further participation in the Department of Florida American Legion Baseball program.

Section 6. A Junior team that plays in a Class "A" league will still be eligible to participate in the Junior play-off, provided they make their intentions known, in writing, and it is approved by the Area Chairman prior to June 20th, 2016. **REMINDER:** In order to participate in the State Tournament, a team must have participated in an Area Tournament of four (4) or more teams.

Section 7. Players can not appear on both a Class "A" and Junior League Roster. Rosters may be adjusted prior to June 20th, with the District or Area Chairman's approval.

Section 8. All Junior games will be seven (7) innings, and the ten (10) run rule will be effective after five (5) innings.

Section 9. Junior Pitching. No player may pitch more than a total of 10 innings during any consecutive three-day period. No player may make more than three appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period. **Penalty: Game shall be forfeited if a protest is filed with the umpire in chief before the last out of the game.**

1. Should a double or triple play cause a pitcher to exceed the permitted 12 innings in three (3) consecutive days, that action in and of itself, shall not be construed as a violation of this rule.
2. Any pitcher may be relieved from the pitching position and remain in the game at another position. However, a pitcher will be automatically removed when a coach makes two trips to the mound in the same inning, and that pitcher cannot return as a pitcher in that game. **Penalty for violating this rule: Forfeiture of the game if a protest is filed with the umpire in chief before the last out of the game.** Clarification: 10.3 innings must be recorded by the official scorekeeper for the purpose of this rule.
3. This rule shall be used in all District, Area, Zone, State and National tournaments.

Section 10. Designated Hitter. All Junior games, regular season and tournament play, may utilize the **National High School Federation Designated Hitter Rule**, with one exception: The American Legion does not permit re-entry to a game during post-season tournament play, therefore the DH may not re-enter the game during post season tournament play.

Section 11. All other rules and regulations listed for the Class "A" teams are effective for Junior baseball.

Section 12. Departmental (State) Tournament Junior Housing: Each Junior team will be responsible for their own meals. The Tournament Chairman will provide each participating team with a list of area motels and rates. Each Junior team requiring housing (60 miles or more from the tournament site) will receive \$500.00 from the Department Baseball Committee and the Tournament "Host" to help defray expenses. The team **MUST** stay in the designated hotel as a team, not with their parents. **NOTE:** This payment will only be paid after the Committee receives a "no damage" report from the local housing facility.