



AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL
DEPARTMENT OF ALABAMA
BASEBALL RULES

2018

Alan Phillips
Commission Chairman

www.alabamaamericanlegionbaseball.com

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PURPOSE:

These rules provide guidance for the formation, administrative control and competition of American Legion baseball teams organized under the Department of Alabama and approved by the Department of Alabama Baseball Commission.

SCOPE:

These rules govern ALL teams and associated personnel participating in the American Legion Baseball program in Alabama.

REFERENCES:

American Legion Baseball Rules as published by the American Legion National Americanism Commission

The Official Baseball Rules as published by Major League Baseball

Approved for Issue:

Alan Phillips
Commission Chairman

Date
15 Dec 2017

Department of Alabama American Legion Baseball Rules 2018

The American Legion, Department of Alabama, Baseball Commission, approved these policies on 15 December 2017.

American Legion Baseball is based on the team concept. Teams will maintain team integrity throughout the year. American Legion Baseball desires that teams start and end the season with the same players that begin the season. Players will not play for one legion team during the season, then transfer to another legion team for post season tournaments, unless properly dual rostered. All teams will play and conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect positively on the Department of Alabama and American Legion Baseball.

RULE 1 - NATIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

National rules and regulations take precedence in all cases where there is conflict with these policies; however, some state rules may be more restrictive than national rules. National rules and regulations apply in all situations and issues not covered by these rules.

RULE 2 - TEAM REGISTRATION AND VALIDATION

Alabama will have three age divisions in 2018. They are:

- Junior Varsity Division – rising 10th grade and below players**
- Varsity Division - must have at least one year of high school baseball eligibility remaining**
- Senior Division (19U - Players must be born on/after January 1, 1999)**

All teams will register on-line at www.baseball.legion.org by **May 15, 2018**. National Headquarters will impose a block to register after this date. Initial registration will include basic team information, payment of insurance and payment of registration fee. Payment will be made on-line.

Team rosters for all teams will be placed on-line at www.alabamaamericanlegionbaseball.com one (1) day prior to their first game or **Jun 1, 2018** whichever date is earlier. A player should register on the Alabama website to facilitate placing the roster on the state site.

The official American Legion roster will be submitted to the national website by June 25, 2018 at www.baseball.legion.org and notification sent to the state chairman at albaseball@charter.net. All teams may request their roster be returned and make changes to their roster until *June 25th*. Teams will construct a binder with each player's form 2, original certified copy of birth certificate or copy of driver's license, insurance certificates, and roster. This binder will be maintained by the coach and brought to each game throughout the year. Teams MAY be asked to turn binders in to the tournament director at any level of an American Legion tournament.

RULE 3 – STATE WEBSITE

1. Each coach and player will be listed on the state website. The minimum information for players will be first and last name and jersey number.
2. Each team will place the team game schedule on the state website's team schedule page.
3. The manager of each team will ensure that the game results are entered on the website within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game.
4. Pitchers' information will be entered on the website within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game. The name, jersey number and number of pitches thrown must be entered.

RULE 4 - STATE TOURNAMENTS

The Junior Varsity and Varsity State Tournament will be held in Shelby County with a \$300 entry fee. Dates: July 12-15, 2018. July 12 will be team check-in and mandatory coaches meeting with competition beginning on Friday July 13.

The 19U state tournament will be played in Shelby County with a \$300 entry fee. Dates: July 26-29, 2018.

Any player eligibility protests must be filed before 9am on the first day of the tournament. Teams will play all tournament games scheduled. Any team that fails to play a tournament game will be considered as acting with poor sportsmanship. The consequence for poor sportsmanship will result in a fine to the represented American Legion Post and/or team and additional punitive measures at the discretion of the baseball commission.

The dugouts will be restricted access to only rostered players for the specific team and approved coaches.

RULE 5 - DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

District tournaments are held at the discretion of the district commissioner.

RULE 6 - UMPIRES

All American Legion teams shall only use umpires certified at the high school level or above.

All umpires must file reports on ejection of game participants. A copy of each report will be forwarded to the Commission Chairman.

RULE 7 - STANDARD BASEBALL

Baseballs with the American Legion logo are requested for American Legion Baseball play. Baseball used must be NFHSA standard.

RULE 8 - VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY DISTRICT TOURNAMENT BIDS

District tournaments are not required but if a district tournament is held then it will be drawn up by the Baseball Board of Directors. Teams are responsible for furnishing official scorekeepers and baseballs. District tournament bids should be directed to the area commissioner. The bid will include the payment of the district tournament champion's entry fee into the state tournament (\$300).

RULE 9 - PROTEST

An umpire's call questioned on the basis of an interpretation of the rules may be protested. The umpire will be informed of intent to play the game under protest. Notice of intent to file a protest must be made prior to the next pitch or play, before play is resumed.

All player/eligibility protest will be submitted in writing and will be accompanied by a \$250.00 check made payable to American Legion Baseball. If the protest is approved, the check will be returned.

All player eligibility will be certified for Post Season Tournaments by the Commissioner in charge before tournament begins. All teams are required to have team packets at each tournament. In case of fraud, a protest may be filed at any time.

Coaches, managers, and other team officials will go through the proper channels with all complaints, protests, and questions pertaining to American Legion Baseball. Punitive action can be taken against personnel that directly contact National Headquarters without working through the state baseball commission.

Violation of State or National Rules by a manager, team, player or person affiliated with a team may cause suspension of the team or individual. The severity of infraction will determine the type and length of suspension. Reinstatement may be considered after submitting a written request to the Baseball Commission.

RULE 11 – BASE SCHOOLS

Base school changes for all senior teams must be submitted to and approved by the baseball director in written form (email or written letter). Senior Division 1 (19U) teams will not share a base school.

RULE 12 - RELEASES/FORM 76 (19U)

All players in the Senior Division 1 (19U) are required to play for the team nearest their parent's legal domicile per national rule 2 and 4. IF a player is granted a release to play for the next closest team, that release is only good for one year. Players in Alabama are only required to try-out for a team if they are informed of this requirement. A player must then try-out for the closest team again next year. **Releases that cross state lines must be discussed with both state chairmen prior to the player's participation in any game, or try-out.** All releases must be approved by all parties, including the baseball chairman, prior to placing the player on your roster.

RULE 13 - TEAM DOCUMENTS AND ENROLLMENT

The team manager shall bring original copies of all paperwork to District and State Tournaments for review by Commissioners on site. School enrollment population will be determined using the enrollment numbers on the AHSAA website. Coaches must contact private schools for their enrollment numbers. Teams cannot exceed a total enrollment of 5000 students in 10-12 grades.

RULE 14 - UNIFORM APPEARANCE

All players shall be dressed alike and in **proper uniform** at all American Legion baseball games. Coaches will be in proper uniform for all American Legion sponsored tournament games. Coaches' jackets are permitted to be worn.

RULE 15 - DUAL PARTICIPATION WITH OTHER BASEBALL EVENTS

REGULAR SEASON: All players may attend showcases, college tryouts, and camps with the approval of their manager or coach.

19U POST SEASON: Once the post season (19U State tournament through World Series) begins, players may not participate in any baseball event that conflicts with their legion team's Regional tournament or World Series event. If a player violates this rule, then this player could be ineligible to play for the remainder of the year.

RULE 16 - DUAL ROSTERED PLAYERS

Players will not be on two rosters within the same division. For example, Player A can not be rostered on two Junior Varsity rosters. Player A could be on a Junior Varsity roster and a Varsity roster and/or a 19U roster within the same American Legion Post. For example, a 15 year old player could be rostered on Post 123's Junior Varsity, Varsity and 19U teams. The player could not be rostered on Post 123's 15U team and any team for Post 456.

RULE 17 - COACHES AND PLAYER CONDUCT

Players: Any player ejected from a game for misconduct or unsportsmanlike conduct will also be suspended from the next game. If this occurs during a post season tournament, the player must be reinstated by the tournament director after he serves his suspension. If the conduct is flagrant the player will sit out the remainder of the tournament.

Coaches: Coaches must set the example for their players to follow. Coaches will not cause a spectacle by arguing with Legion officials, umpires, players, or spectators. Coaches ejected from a game will also be suspended from the next game their team participates in. If a coach fails to self-impose this sanction they will be placed on probation for one year. Coaches ejected from post season games will also be suspended for the next game, and will not coach again until reinstated by the commissioners on site. All coaches are required to sign the "Coaches Agreement" attached as enclosure 6.

RULE 18 - INTERLEAGUE PLAY

Teams are encouraged to interleague with the next closest age division. This allows for easier scheduling and allows for teams to develop players.

RULE 19 – HONORS TO DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Players, coaches and game officials are expected to stand, face the flag (if present), remove their hat and render honors to the United States of America.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1 Baseball Commission Organizational Structure
- 2 Coaches Agreement

ATTACHMENT 1 - Baseball Commission

Department Commander Donna Stacey	Baseball Chairman Alan Phillips	
Department Adjutant Greg Akers	Vice Chairman	

	Commissioners	Assistant Commissioners
FIRST DIVISION:	Greg Watson	
SECOND DIVISION:	Patrick Kennedy	Gordon Seale
THIRD DIVISION:	Wayne Stacey	

ATTACHMENT 2 - Coaches Agreement

As a coach of an American Legion baseball team, I realize I am expected to meet the high standards of American Legion Baseball. I will

- Follow all state and national rules pertaining to American Legion Baseball
- Conduct myself in a manner that will reflect favorably upon me, my team, and American Legion Baseball.
- If ejected from a game I will sit out the remainder of that game and the next game my team plays. I realize I am required to leave the ball park and have no contact with my team.
- Ensure my players and coaches are in proper uniform and all my equipment meets American Legion and Major League baseball rules.
- Ensure my fans show good sportsmanship.

Failure to comply with this agreement will result in my probation or suspension from American Legion Baseball.

COACHES SIGNATURE

DATE:
