



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

2012 BASEBALL RULES

The following American Legion baseball rules and regulations, adopted by the Department Baseball Committee, are applicable in the Department of Delaware and supplement the American Legion National Baseball Rules. *Proposed changes for this season are in italics and highlighted.*

Rule #1 – Number of Teams

The Department of Delaware will maintain a minimum of eight teams.

Rule # 2 - Forfeits:

- A. A team will receive a twenty (20) minute grace period from the scheduled start of the game in order to field a team. After this grace period the game shall be forfeited to the other team.
- B. At least one adult manager or coach, as listed on the roster must be present at the start and during the entire game, or the game will be forfeited.
- C. Any games forfeited due to violations of American Legion Baseball (ALBB) rules or the current "rules of baseball" (as defined by ALBB) may also be appealed in accordance with DE State Rule 8.
- D. Any team who has four (4) or more forfeits during their regular season league games shall not be eligible for the state tournament (STR Rule #4)
- E. If forfeits do occur, the forfeiting team shall be responsible to pay the umpire fees to the home team. The payment shall be made to the home team directly and the home team shall forward such payment onto the umpires. It shall be the responsibility of the home team to collect such fees from the forfeiting team or bear the cost of the umpires themselves.

Rule #3 – Player Recruiting

- A. Teams will be selected based on PLAYER RECRUITMENT PLAN "A" as set forth in the American Legion National Rule Book.
- B. All teams must have a zone to select players from.
- C. Player Transfers (Form 76) will be for one year only. Players using Form 76 will be required to try out for their home zone team prior to the following season.*
- D. School enrollments will be based on 10th, 11th and 12th grade population set by the actual official enrollment total recorded by Delaware Department of Education as of September 30 of the School year.
- E. Only American Legion Baseball (ALBB) Rule 2 and Rule 3 as published by American Legion Americanism Commission shall pertain to player eligibility except as in (F.) below.
- F. A player's legal address for American Legion Baseball shall be the same address used to determine that player's base public school attendance, except where (ALBB) Rule 2B.2. Overrides this determination.



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Rule # 4 - Rosters

- A. *Before June 1st each team will submit their team's Official Roster using the official American Legion Baseball Web Site (www.legion.org/baseball). Up to 18 players are permitted, however teams will be able to designate active members of their official roster prior to June 30th for a game by listing them on the official Lineup Card for that game, then updating the information on the web site as soon as possible.*
- B. *Final Official Team Rosters, with all 18 players listed, will be submitted electronically via the National American Legion Web Site prior to June 30th.*
- C. *The Department Chairman, or his representative, will not approve any team rosters prior to June 30th. After that date, changes may only be made in accordance with American Legion Baseball Rule 6 E.*
- D. A digital photograph of the team with team names will be uploaded to the National web site prior to July 15th.

Rule # 5 - Sponsorship

Outside sponsorship is permitted, provided the following regulations are complied with:

- A. Sponsoring party must file a request in writing to the Department committee for the permission to enter a team using the outside sponsorship form provided on the American Legion Baseball web site.
- B. All American Legion regulations (recruiting and playing) must be followed.
- C. The American Legion baseball patch must be worn on the left sleeves by all uniformed players, coaches and managers.
- D. No firm or company whose advertisement reflects the sale or use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products shall be permitted to display such advertising on the team uniforms

Rule # 6 - Play before State Tournament

Pitchers who pitch in any game played during the three days preceding the state tournament shall have those innings pitched totals included when calculating innings pitched during the State Tournament.



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Rule #7 - Insurance

- A. Each team must secure Group Accident and Liability protection insurance **prior to May 15th**, in accordance with American Legion Baseball requirements.
- B. **Copies of team Accident and Liability insurance policies must be submitted to the league office prior to the start of league play.**

Rule #8 – Ejections, Protests and Appeals

- A. All protests in league play **or suspected rules violations** must be submitted to the league chairman **(acting as the Commissioner)** in writing, **either electronically, or via mail**, within 24 hours after the protested game. A protest fee of \$50.00 must be attached, and if the protest is allowed the fee will be refunded.
- B. Any ejection or disqualification under ALBB Rule 7 or American League rules (9.05) shall be reported by telephone, e-mail or in writing by the Head Umpire of the game to the Baseball Chairman (acting as the Commissioner) by Noon the following day, or 10:00 AM on Saturday or Sunday. The Umpire involved will be responsible for **categorizing** the ejection as being “flagrant” or not, **in accordance with** ALBB Rule 7 or American League rule 9.05 (b).
 - 1. The Chairman, acting as Commissioner, has the authority to assess any additional penalties over and above the ejection based on ALBB Rules, and American League Rule 9.05 (c.) and will report same to the Committee, the Teams and Post Representative involved prior to the next game involving that team.
 - 2. Repeated and/or flagrant violations of rules may be considered when imposing penalties.
 - 3. Teams may appeal any ruling by the Chairman upon the filing of a written protest **and submission of** a \$50 protest fee. **Initial** Appeals may be forwarded electronically to the chairman’s e-mail address debaseball@delegion.org, **followed by the fee**. If the state chairman’s ruling is overturned by the protest committee, any fees paid will be returned. Appealed rulings will be stayed until a final decision of the appeals committee.
 - 4. An appeals committee will be appointed by the Chairman prior to the season to hear and recommend resolution of protests to the full committee only in accordance with ALBB Rule 8.
- C. Committee members should be aware of ALBB Rule 7 A. as it relates to Conduct and their position as a “department Chairman’s representative.”



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Rule # 9 - Uniforms

All players and coaches on the field must dress in full team uniform. Windbreaker jackets are acceptable for coaches.

Rule # 10 – Weather Postponements

All rain-outs and postponed games will be rescheduled within three (3) days. If not, the league recorder will reschedule as required.

Rule # 11 – Umpire Fees

Umpire fees will be negotiated directly between the team and the selected umpire group. The home team will be responsible to notify the umpires in all cases where it is necessary to cancel or change a game time. If a team forfeits, it will be responsible for the umpire fees to the home team.

Rule # 12 – Questions during a Game

Only a team coach or manager may be permitted to discuss a question on a play with an umpire.

Rule # 13 – Rescheduling Games

Any team desiring to reschedule a game must contact the opposing manager by **Noon of the day prior** to the scheduled game to arrange a new date and time for those game(s). The both team managers have the responsibility to notify the Department Chairman of the new schedule prior to midnight of the prior day.

Rule # 14 – Additional Playing Rules

- A. American Legion slide rule will be enforced. (Same as college slide rule)
- B. Catchers must wear a mask in or out the bullpen when warming up a pitcher in accordance with American Legion (ALBB) rules.

Rule # 15 – Full Schedule

All regular season games must be played unless results have no bearing on the final standings that would affect the State Tournament seeding.



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Rule # 16 – Length of Games

- A. All games shall be played the full seven innings except the final game of the season between the two teams.
- B. Any game that has proceeded to the official game length of 5 innings (4½ if the home team is ahead) and is stopped due to a weather related problem and is not resumed that same day shall be counted as a complete game.
- C. Any game stopped due to darkness will be resumed at the exact same point at a later date and be played to the full seven innings. The ten run “slaughter rule” shall still apply to all games after the game has become an official game.

[It is strongly suggested that no inning should start after the published sunset time for the date of the game as published by the National Weather Service for Dover, Delaware, unless the playing field is properly illuminated for baseball. The League will publish said times on the official website. Suggesting an ending time here in no way supersedes an umpire's authority to stop a game before sunset for any reason that would make continuing play unsafe, but to encourage the suspension of play when there is insufficient light to safely continue.]

- D. *After one full inning has been completed, any suspended game shall resume from the exact point of suspension.* If one full inning has not been completed, the game will start over.

Rule #17 – Other Rules

All rules not specifically covered herein, shall be followed per the American Legion Baseball (ALBB) rule book. All playing rules not covered directly by the American Legion Baseball rules shall be played under the American League rules *promulgated as the Official Baseball Rules, as published by Major League Baseball. In all cases, American Legion rules will take precedence over the Official Baseball Rules.*



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Additional State Tournament Rules

STR Rule 1: - Format

The Tournament shall be conducted under a modified Double Elimination format as published by American Legion Baseball, and played at one site (whenever possible).

STR Rule 2: - Tournament Host

Rights to host the tournament shall be determined by competitive bid. However preference shall be given to those parties who possess fields with lights which are first class facilities. The Delaware baseball chairman shall have final selection of selected field.

The Host team will earn an automatic 8th seed in the tournament, unless they qualify for a higher seed under rule 3 below.

STR Rule 3: - Seeding

Eight teams shall become eligible for tournament play. Divisional Winners shall be awarded the top seeds. Seeding shall be determined through a regular season point system as follows:

1. Win = 3pts,
2. Loss = 0 pts.,
3. Tie = 1pt each team,
4. Win by forfeit plus 3 pts.,
5. Loss by forfeit minus 3 pts.

STR Rule 4: - Forfeits

Any team who has four (4) or more forfeits during their regular season league games shall not be eligible for the state tournament.



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STR Rule 5: - Seeding Ties and Play-in Game

Should a tie for the eighth seed occur, a play-in game will become necessary to determine the eighth seed. Ties for seeds one through seven shall be resolved by the following tie breaker system.

1. Head to head regular season results between or among tied teams.
2. Least runs allowed in regular season games between or among the tied teams.
3. Highest run differential (i.e. runs scored versus runs allowed in regular season games between or among the tied teams.
4. Coin flips.

STR Rule 6: - Minimum Play Rule

To play in the State Tournament, a roster player must have been on the official lineup card and present and available for play for a minimum of **ten regular season games**. Players arriving late may be added to the official lineup card prior to the start of the final inning of that game. Managers shall retain a copy of all official lineup cards used during the season.

STR Rule 7: - Length of Tournament Games

All tournament games shall be nine inning games with the 10 run "slaughter rule" after seven (7) innings.

STR Rule 8: - Tournament Director and Tournament Appeals committee:

- A. The State Chairman will serve as the Tournament Director for the state tournament, however individual members of the Baseball Committee may be appointed as Interim Tournament Director with all the authority of the committee by the State Chairman for individual games provided that person's Post team is not playing in the State Tournament.
- B. Members of the committee attending the State tournament will serve as an Appeals Board and shall act upon any appeals filed in a timely manner, preferably before the start of the next game. Any committee member with a team involved in an appeal will be excused from this requirement.

STR Rule 9: - Pitching Statistics to be Provided

The official Statistician shall provide a report of innings pitched by every pitcher on each team remaining in the tournament starting with the games on the 2nd day of the tournament and each day thereafter until a winner is determined.