



## THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF DELAWARE

### 2016 BASEBALL RULES

The following American Legion baseball rules and regulations, adopted by the Department Baseball Committee, and approved by the Department of Delaware Executive Committee, are applicable for all play in the Department of Delaware and supplement the American Legion National Baseball Rules. Rules marked with a \* have clarification notes at the end of this document.

#### 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. **Until 10 calendar days** prior to the Delaware State Tournament, any team desiring to reschedule a game for any reason, must contact the opposing manager by **Noon of the day prior to that scheduled game** to immediately schedule 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. \* Any game rescheduled under this rule that is not played due to circumstances not related to weather will be entered as a forfeit against the original cancelling team.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. 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)
- F. Any visiting team that forfeits a game shall immediately 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 on to the umpires. It shall be the **responsibility of the home team to collect such fees** from the forfeiting team unless the home team failed to notify the umpires in a timely manner. If the forfeiting team is the home team, they will pay the appropriate fees to the umpires immediately. \*
- G. Any team who forfeits a game and fails to **immediately** forward the appropriate umpire fees shall be forbidden to play additional games until those fees have been paid. \*



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#### Rule #3 – Player Recruiting

Teams Players will be selected based on PLAYER RECRUITMENT PLAN "A" as set forth in the American Legion National Rule Book, Rule 3.

- A. All teams must have a zone *as described in AL Baseball Rule 3* to select players from.
- B. Player Transfers (Form 76) will be for one year only and will be approved only if the player involved has tried out for their home zone team. Players using Form 76 will be required to try out for their home zone team prior to the following season *except for players described in rule 3.B.2.*
- C. 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. \*
- D. 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 (E.) below.
- E. 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 that determination.
- F. *If a prospective player lives at an address outside any existing zone, the Department Chairman may release that player to the closest team using Form 76. Should the player attend a high school outside the team's recruiting zone, the population of that school shall be added to the team's student population.*

#### 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](http://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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 approve all team rosters prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 15<sup>th</sup>**.

#### 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.



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#### Rule 5 (Cont)

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.

#### Rule #7 – Insurance

- A. Each team must secure Group Accident and Liability protection insurance prior to **May 15<sup>th</sup>**, 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 ([debaseball@delegion.org](mailto:debaseball@delegion.org)) 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).
- C. 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. . *If the Chairman has a direct relationship with the team or teams involved he/she will assign another committee member to assume the duties of the Commissioner.*
- D. Repeated and/or flagrant violations of rules may be considered when imposing penalties.
- E. Teams may appeal any ruling by the Chairman, *or his/her representative*, 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](mailto: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.
- F. 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. *Committee members with a direct interest in the team or teams involved will recuse themselves prior to rendering a decision on any appeal.*
- G. *All Baseball 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 other postponed games, regardless of reason, will be rescheduled within three (3) days to be played during the following 2 weeks. The new time and date will be reported to the League office within 24 hours. If not, the league may arbitrarily reschedule the game as required.

#### Rule # 11 – Umpire Fees

Umpire fees will be negotiated directly between the teams and the selected umpire group. **The Home** team is responsible for notifying the umpires in all cases where it is necessary to cancel or change a game time and is *responsible for paying any fees subject to Rule 2 above*.

#### Rule # 12 – Questions during a Game

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

#### Rule # 13 – Rescheduling Games

Merged into Rule 2

#### Rule # 14 – Additional Playing Rules

- A. American Legion slide rule will be enforced.
- 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 weather** 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. If the game is to be completed when the two teams play next, the suspended game will be completed before the regularly scheduled game will begin. The “ten run rule” shall still apply to all games after the game has become an official game.
- 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 – Background Checks for Team Officials

- A. The American Legion Americanism Commission has promulgated *Risk Management Policies of the American Legion for the Enhanced Protection of Children and Youth* requiring background checks for all persons who might come in contact with players during games, practices or try-outs.
- B. Only the vendor approved by the national American Legion Americanism Commission may be used for these background checks. The cost of these checks shall be charged to the individual managers and coaches.
- C. No team manager or coach shall be allowed to participate in practice, try-outs or games before that manager or coach has been cleared by the Delaware Department Compliance Officer.

#### Rule #18 - 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,” published by Major League Baseball. In all cases, American Legion *playing* rules will take precedence over the Official Baseball Rules.



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#### Notes:

##### **Rule 2.B.:**

The purpose of this rule is to avoid forfeits due to either team's personnel availability prior to the end of the regular season.

##### **Rule 2. E. & F.:**

Any team that forfeits a game is ultimately responsible for paying the Umpire Fees unless the game was rescheduled early enough to avoid those fees. Part F requires that teams responsible for fees due to their own actions pay those fees prior to resuming play in the league. Any team who forfeits a game after the time required must send the appropriate fees to the home team immediately

##### **Rule 3. C.:**

Found on the web at <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/1495> & [http://www.doe.k12.de.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=3457&dataid=10965&FileName=2014\\_2015NonpublicSchoolReport.pdf](http://www.doe.k12.de.us/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=3457&dataid=10965&FileName=2014_2015NonpublicSchoolReport.pdf)

##### **Rule 4. A.:**

Players added to the roster by virtue of being listed on the lineup card must be added to the national roster as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours.

*If a player listed on the lineup card is injured during play, that player must remain on the lineup card until the claim is filed.*

A player may arrive at a 7 inning game and play in that game provided that player is in the dugout, ready to play, prior to the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> (or final) inning.

##### **Rule 16. C.:**

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.

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.



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#### Additional State Tournament Rules

##### STR Rule 1: - Format

The Tournament shall be conducted under the 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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:

- Win = 3 pts.
- Loss = 0 pts.
- Tie = 1 pt each team.
- Win by forfeit plus 3 pts.,
- 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.

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

Should a tie for the *final* seed occur, a play-in game will become necessary to determine *that 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.



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#### **STR Rule 6: - Minimum Play Rule**

To be eligible to play in the State Tournament, a roster player must *be listed on the Official National Roster as maintained on the American Legion Baseball website, and* have been on the official lineup card, be 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:**

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 that game in the State Tournament.

All 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.

#### **STR Rule 10: - Dates of State Tournament**

*The annual Delaware American Legion Baseball State Tournament will be scheduled to begin no earlier than 14 days prior to the start date of the American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament.*