

# AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

1925 - 2010

The 86<sup>th</sup> Year

Massachusetts State Program - 2010



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.  
[www.masslegion.org](http://www.masslegion.org)

**Bill Barbour**  
Commander

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Adjutant

**Roger Gagnon**  
Department Athletic Committee Chairmen

## FOREWORD

The National Americanism Commission of The American Legion sponsors numerous programs for America's Youth. Americanism is defined as an unflinching love of Country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, individual allegiance to the Flag, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

Our forefathers laid the foundation for a civilization that is the envy of the world. It has brought us greater spiritual and material wealth than any people has ever known. This is our heritage. The many activities of the National Americanism Commission are designed to acknowledge and preserve that heritage, recognizing all of the inalienable rights of man. Baseball is one of the Programs of the National Americanism Commission which is designed to benefit our nation's youth.

American Legion Baseball (ALB) began in 1925 and held its first national tournament the following year. Today, more than 4,800 teams and about 95,000 youngsters participate in all states and Puerto Rico. ALB consists of two divisions – seniors (19 years of age and younger) and juniors (17 years of age and younger).

ALB strives to teach practical lessons of good sportsmanship and citizenship. Loyalty, respect for rules and decisions rendered, fair play, courage and physical fitness are emphasized in this activity.

The Legion's national organization conducts tournaments in its senior division. The winners of eight regional tournaments advance to a national championship tournament. The team crowned national champion is honored by Major League Baseball with a trip to the MLB World Series.

Many current and former MLB players developed their skills on American Legion diamonds. They included Hall of Famers like Bob Feller, Ted Williams, Don Drysdale, Joe Morgan, Yogi Berra and Reggie Jackson. Current stars like Chipper Jones, Albert Pujols and Darin Erstad played American Legion Baseball.

American Legion Baseball depends upon its Posts, individual Legionnaires and other Legion family organizations to promote the activity. Enthusiastic leadership, coaches and players are available in almost every community where an American Legion Post is located.

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- 1.
- 2.
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**DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS  
2010 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULES  
2010 RULE CHANGES ARE UNDERLINED**

**RULE 1 - PLAYING RULES**

- A. All Department regular season and Sectional Playoff games shall be played in accordance with rules adopted by the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion and by the Official Baseball Rules as authorized by the Commissioner of Major League Baseball and published by The Sporting News for 2010, with the exception of the Rules contained herein.
1. If any man made obstruction prevents the completion of any game at any time after it starts, the game shall become a suspended game and completed at a later time and, if necessary, at a different location.
  2. The use of any form of tobacco by a player, coach, manager or umpire while on the playing field is prohibited and shall result in that person's immediate ejection from the game.
  3. All players are required to wear double flapped, ear protective batting helmets while on deck, batting and/or running the bases.
    - a. All bat boys (girls) must at all times wear double flapped, ear protective batting helmets while on the playing field or in the dugout.
    - b. 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.
  4. In addition to normal catcher's equipment, catchers are required to wear a safety helmet, throat protector and protective cup. Any catcher's mask that does not have an extended metal throat protector at least 2 inches in length is required to have an attachable throat protector. Umpires and Department officials shall halt any game until this rule is complied with.
    - a. All players and coaches are required to wear a catcher's mask while warming up pitchers if they are in the catcher's customary position, regardless of whether they are on the field or in the bullpen. Players or coaches refusing to wear a mask while warming up a pitcher after being so warned, shall be ejected from the game.

5. No player may pitch more than a total of 12 innings during any consecutive three day period nor make more than four appearances as a pitcher in any consecutive three day period. Any team violating this rule shall forfeit such game provided the game is protested before the final out.
  - a. An appearance as a pitcher shall constitute a minimum of one-third (1/3) of an inning.
  - b. If a double or triple play causes a pitcher to exceed the permitted 12 innings in three consecutive days, such action in and of itself shall not be construed as a violation of this rule.
  - c. It shall be the duty of the official scorer to notify the plate umpire when a pitcher has only three innings of eligibility remaining.
  - d. A pitcher may be relieved from the pitching position and remain in the game at another position and be eligible to return as a pitcher in such game provided such pitcher is removed on the first trip to the mound in such inning. Pitchers who are visited a second time during the same inning must be removed from that game as a pitcher, but may remain in the game at another position.
6. All teams must have an up to date and comprehensive First-Aid Kit at all games see suggested contents for First Aid Kit on National Web site. No game may commence unless at least one team has such a First Aid Kit in their dugout area. Teams that are unable to produce such a First Aid Kit at games are subject to a Fifty (\$50.00) fine.
7. All players on each team must wear full identical uniforms in order to participate in any regular or post season game. Players who are not in full identical uniform shall not be allowed to participate in such games.
  - a. The American Legion Baseball Insignia must be worn on the left sleeve or left chest of the uniform shirt. The uniform shirt shall also be numbered and display lettering that identifies the Post, Department, Town, City, Community or Sponsor of the team represented which is acceptable to the Department Chairman.
  - b. District Chairmen must instruct their District's Head Umpire to instruct all District umpires that no player is to be allowed on the field during games unless they are in compliance with this Rule.

8. Only managers and coaches listed on their team's National Form 1 may coach from the coaching box and/or visit the pitcher's mound during any regular or post season game, provided, however, that they are in full uniform which is identical to their team's players' uniform.
  - a. Coaches may wear courtesy jackets over their uniform provided the American Legion Baseball Insignia is on the jacket's left sleeve or left chest.
  - b. Managers and coaches who are not in full uniform must remain on the bench during games and may not go onto the field or coaches' box for any reason other than an emergency. District Chairmen must instruct their District's Head Umpire to instruct all District umpires that no manager or coach is to be allowed on the field unless they are in compliance with this Rule. Managers and/or coaches who violate this rule are subject to ejection from the game.
  - c. Protective Helmets for Coaches: All coaches are mandated to wear a protective helmet while in the coaching box during play. The coach may choose the type of protective helmet - single-ear flap, double-ear flap, or no earflap helmet, but he must have a helmet. Please insure coaches understand this rule prior to the start of the game. Any coach who fails to wear a protective helmet during play, shall remain in the dugout until he complies with this rule. A player with a protective helmet may act as a coach. This is a safety rule. A second violation may result in an ejection by umpire.
  - d. Coaches Box: As part of Official Baseball Rules, base coaches may not be permitted to stand out-side the "front" of the coach's box prior to the ball being in play. This is a safety issue. A coach may leave the coach's box once the ball has been put into play. The coach may stand outside the "back" of the coach's box at any time. Failure to abide by this rule may result in an ejection.
9. Only bats approved for NCAA use may be used in American Legion play. Please refer to National Rule 1A for further information on bat specifications and penalties for use of nonconforming bats.

## **RULE 2 - DEPARTMENT ATHLETIC COMMITTEE**

- A. The Department Athletic Committee shall be composed of a Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Members and Advisors as the Department Commander may from

time to time determine and appoint to the Committee together with a District Chairman from each District who shall be appointed by their respective District Commanders. District Commanders may also appoint a District Vice Chairman who shall have the right to be heard but vote only in the absence of their respective District Chairman. All members of the Department Athletic Committee shall have full voting privileges, provided each member shall have only one vote.

1. Athletic Committee Members who are absent from fifty (50%) of the Committee's meetings in a calendar year may be recommended for removal from their position by their appointing authority.
- B. All matters concerning the Department American Legion Baseball Program that have not specifically been designated to be within the initial or final jurisdiction of the Department Athletic Chairman or one of the District Chairmen, shall be within the jurisdiction of the Department Athletic Committee.
- C. The Department Umpire-in-Chief and his Assistant Umpire-in-Chief shall be appointed to the Department Athletic Committee by the Department Athletic Chairman, subject to the approval of the Athletic Committee. The Umpire-in-Chief shall have full voting privileges, the First Assistant may only vote in the absence of the Umpire-in-Chief.
1. Team managers, coaches and members of the Department Athletic Committee, other than the Umpire-in-Chief, shall not serve as an umpire in the Department American Legion Baseball Program.
- D. All requests for interpretations of National or Department Rules shall be typewritten, signed by the team manager, and forwarded or emailed to their District Chairman who shall forward such request to the Department Chairman for determination.
1. No person other than the Department Chairman and/or his designee may contact the National Americanism Commission directly for any reason. Any person violating this Rule shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Department Athletic Committee, which discipline shall include a \$200.00 fine.

## **RULE 3 - DISTRICTS**

A. The following Districts are established for the 2010 season:

District 1	Berkshire County
District 2	Hampshire/Franklin Counties
District 3	Hampden County
District 4	Worcester County
District 5	Middlesex County
District 6	Norfolk County
District 7	Suffolk County
District 8	Essex County
District 9	Bristol County
District 10	Barnstable/Plymouth/Dukes/Nantucket Counties

B. The Department Athletic Committee may, in its sole discretion, transfer a team from one District to another.

## **RULE 4 - TEAM REGISTRATION**

### **I. NEW TEAM APPLICATIONS**

A. Application for entry into the American Legion Baseball Program for the 2010 season by teams that did not have an active team in 2009 must be made in writing by filing the following fully executed Forms with the District Chairman for the District the team will compete in by January 31, 2010: (1) American Legion Baseball New Team Registration Form; and (2) Department of Massachusetts Base School Selection Form. New teams seeking admission to the Program must demonstrate: (1) Satisfactory written evidence for the permission to use the team's intended playing field during the 2010 season by a duly authorized signatory; (2) Satisfactory evidence of the team's financial ability to fund the team; and (3) Satisfactory evidence of the team's ability to recruit sufficient qualified players to fill their roster without adversely affecting existing teams. If the District Chairman, after consulting with the District's Team Managers, approve the New Team's entry into the Program, the Chairman shall submit the Forms and other information to the Department Athletic Committee Chairman by March 1, 2010 for final approval. The Department Athletic Committee shall retain final jurisdiction on all such applications.

1. Districts may establish earlier cut off dates for filing and considering New Team Applications provided they do so in their District Rules. Thus, applicants should consult with their District Chairman as soon as possible.
2. If all American Legion Posts within a team's Plan A Zone refuse to sponsor a team; or if the closest American Legion Post to a Plan B team's Base School (as calculated by MapQuest using the shortest driving distance setting) refuses to sponsor such team, then such team may apply for admission to the Program as an Outside Sponsored team.
  - a. All Outside Sponsored teams must play under the name of an identifiable athletic organization, association or other entity. The sponsoring entity must be duly organized and existing under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and be registered with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition, the sponsoring entity must demonstrate a satisfactory financial and administrative ability to operate the Team, and a commitment to familiarize themselves and operate within the Rules of American Legion Baseball.
  - b. All Outside Sponsored teams must provide their District Chairman with a confirmed up-to-date copy of their Articles of Organization and By-Laws before they will be allowed to participate in the Program. Thereafter they will provide copies of the Annual Report filed with Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to their District Chairman as a condition of their continued participation in the Program.

## **II. MODIFICATIONS TO PLAYER RECRUITING PLANS, TEAM REGISTRATION**

### **A. Plan A**

1. The Department Athletic Committee will neither consider nor approve any Applications to modify or create any Plan A Zones for the 2010 season.
  - a. The Department Athletic Committee retains the right to terminate any existing Plan A Zone at its discretion.

### **B. Plan B**

1. Teams may make Application to change their assigned Base School by filing the Department of Massachusetts Base School Selection Form with their District Chairman by January 31, 2010. If after consultation with the

District's Team Managers, the District Chairman approves the change of Base School, the Application shall be submitted to the Department Athletic Committee Chairman on or before March 1, 2010. The Department Athletic Committee shall retain final jurisdiction of all Base School assignments.

- a. Teams shall retain their Base School assignments from year to year unless a change is authorized as herein provided or as directed by the Department Athletic Committee.
- b. Teams may not choose, nor retain, a Base School for the 2010 Season unless they had a minimum of one (1) player on their 2008 Form 1 enrolled in their Base School in the 10th, 11th or 12th grade.

### **III. TEAM INSURANCE**

- A. Teams may not commence practice or tryouts of any fashion, whether on or off field, before obtaining group accident and liability insurance from Van Dyk Insurance Agency as required by National Rule 1(H). Teams must submit proof of insurance to their District Chairman on or before April 1, 2010, after which date they shall be subject to penalty including disqualification from the Program.
  1. Teams that have not obtained insurance by April 1, 2010 as shown by Van Dyk's records, will be assessed the following fines: (i) \$50.00 if they obtain insurance after April 1, 2010 but on or before April 15, 2010; (ii) \$100.00 if they obtain insurance after April 15, 2010 but on or before April 30, 2010; \$200.00 fine if they obtain insurance after April 30, 2010 but before May 15, 2010, after which date they will be removed from the Program.

### **IV. TEAM REGISTRATION**

- A. All teams that participated in the Department of Massachusetts American Legion Baseball Program in 2009 must register their team with The American Legion Baseball National Office Website ([www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball)) by January 31, 2010, in order to be eligible to participate in the 2010 season. Teams that fail to register prior by January 31, 2010, will be allowed to register provided they pay a \$50.00, fine on or before February 15, 2010, after which date they will be removed from the Program.
  1. New Teams which have been accepted into the Program under Department Rule 4.I.A, will be instructed as to the cutoff date for their registration with

the National Program by the Department Athletic Committee upon its approval of such team.

- B. All District Chairmen shall conduct a Team Registration Meeting on or before January 31, 2010 at which all teams intending to participate in the Department of Massachusetts American Legion Baseball Program shall submit a fully executed Department of Massachusetts Team Registration Form. District Chairmen shall report all Teams that fail to submit a Department of Massachusetts Team Registration Form by January 31, 2010, to the Department Chairman as soon as practicable, which Team shall be removed from the Program unless thereafter reinstated by the Athletic Committee.
- C. All teams must complete their roster, including all Form 2's, 76 and 77 if necessary, on the National Office Website by Sunday, June 6, 2010, after which date no changes may be made without the approval of the team's District Chairman and the Department Chairman. The final date the Department Chairman will approve roster changes is June 15, 2010. Roster changes after June 6, 2010, will be limited to replacing players who have voluntarily withdrawn from their team after June 6, 2010, or who have sustained season ending injuries, with players who appear on the team's Department of Massachusetts Consolidated Player Registration Form, who do not require completion of Form 76 after June 6, 2010.
- D. All Districts shall conduct a Roster Submittal Meeting on or before Sunday, June 6, 2010, at which the following documents will be submitted to the District Chairman for review and approval:
1. Printed copy of National Form 1. Additional coaches must be listed on Post or Outside Sponsor's stationary;
    - a. Teams which only roster players from schools shown in the MIAA Member School Enrollment Data Form (Base Year 10/1/2007) which do not exceed a Combined Total Enrollment of 4000 students, may use seventy five (75%) of the school enrollment total shown on the MIAA Member School Enrollment Data Form for each school listed on their Form 1, in which case a School Official Verifying Signature will not be required. To obtain the correct MIAA Member School Enrollment Data Form, see <http://www.miaa.net/Enrollment-data-10-13.pdf>.
    - b. Teams which roster players from schools not shown in the MIAA Member School Enrollment Data Form, or whose Combined Total Enrollment exceed 4000 students, must obtain the actual enrollment as of March 31,

2010, in writing from each such school listed on their Form 1. **Clarification**, Form 1's that contain both non member and member MIAA schools but whose Combined Total Enrollment do not exceed 4000, will only be required to list the actual enrollment for the non member MIAA schools. Emails, faxes and/or copies of enrollment figures on school letter head shall be satisfactory to satisfactory this Rule.

- c. Plan "A" Teams shall list all schools located within their Plan "A" Zone on their Form 1, subject to the requirements of subparagraphs (a) and (b) above.
2. Copy of fully completed and executed National Form 2 for each player listed on Form 1;
  3. Original birth certificate or certified document for each player listed on the Team's Form 1 issued by a State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health, Municipal or other governmental agency authorized to certify birth documents; U.S. Government issued Passport, Military ID or Dependent ID Card; court certified copy of that portion of permanent legal adoption papers provided they show the place and date of player's birth; and in case of foreign birth, 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 date of birth, or an official birth certificate issued by a foreign country when accompanied by a letter with English translation provided such birth certificate has an official seal. Notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital records, baptismal records, school records or certificates are not acceptable and will disqualify the player and/or the team;
  4. All requisite Certificates of Insurance.
  5. Original fully completed and executed Department of Massachusetts Consolidated Player Registration Form.
  6. Original National Form(s) 76 and/or 77 for each player requiring such Forms, fully completed and executed.
  7. Original National Coach's Code of Ethics Form for each coach and Manager.
- C. All Teams shall maintain in their possession and have available at all games the following documents: hereinafter referred to as the "Team Credentials", (1) Printed copy of Form 1 including enrollment verification when necessary; (2)

Team copy of Form 2 for each player on Form 1; (3) Original form of evidence of date of birth for each player listed on Form 1 as required by Department Rule 4.B.3; (4) Team copy of Certificates of Insurance; (5) Fully executed copies of all Forms 76 & 77 for each player listed on Form 1 if necessary; and MapQuest calculations for all non Base School players.

## **RULE 5 - PLAYER REGISTRATION**

- A. Teams must conduct not less than one (1) player registration session in a venue open to the public as disclosed on their Department of Massachusetts Team Registration Form no later than the second (2nd) Sunday in May, 2010. Teams are to take reasonable steps to publicize the date, time and location of their registration session so that players who are required by National Recruiting Rules to tryout for their team will be informed of the specifics of the session.
1. Teams may conduct as many registration sessions as they deem appropriate provided the District Chairman is so informed.
  2. Teams shall provide players with information concerning its tryout schedule at the registration session which may be held in conjunction with on field tryouts at the discretion of the Team.
- B. Team Managers shall list all players registering for their team on the Department of Massachusetts Consolidated Player Registration Form which will also indicate the disposition of each player.
1. Players registering with Plan A Teams who do not reside within the Teams' Plan A Zone shall not be allowed to tryout or practice under any circumstance and shall be referred to the District Chairman as soon as practicable for referral to the proper team.
  2. The name, address and school attended on March 31st of all players registering with Plan B Teams who do not attend the Team's Base School and are not returning players from a prior season shall be reported to the District Chairman as soon as possible for verification of eligibility to tryout for such Team. District Chairmen will verify such player's eligibility to tryout and so inform the Manager, or if not eligible, refer the player to the proper team.
- a. Teams intending to roster non Base School players shall print out and submit to their District Chairman the results of the calculations shown by

MapQuest (utilizing the shortest driving distance setting) which verifies such player resides closer to such Team's Base School than to any other Base School, prior to allowing the player to tryout for the Team. Clarification, this Rule shall not prohibit players from trying out for multiple teams provided they are informed of the order of the teams in which they are required to tryout be each Team Manager.

- C. Only players listed on a Team's Department of Massachusetts Consolidated Player Registration Form shall be eligible to tryout for, and if cut, receive a National Rule 4.E Transfer (Form #76) from such team.
  - 1. Players who fail to register for a team shall not be eligible for a National Rule 4.E Transfer (Form #76) from such team.
  - 2. Eligible players who have been refused an opportunity to register and/or tryout (weather permitting) for a team prior to May 31st, may be eligible for a National Rule 4.E Transfer (Form #76) by the Department Athletic Committee Chairman.

## **RULE 6 - DISTRICT CHAIRMEN**

- A. District Chairman shall have signatory authority to execute National Forms 76 & 77 on behalf of the Department Chairman.
  - 1. Fully completed and executed Requests for Player Transfer (Form 76) shall be forwarded by the District Chairman to the Department Chairman with the Team Registration materials. No player may appear on a Team's Form 1 until the District Chairman approves their Form 76 in writing.
  - 2. In the event a player obtains a Form 76 from two or more teams in two or more Districts, then all District Chairmen must approve the Form 76 before the player may appear on a Team's Form 1.
- B. District Chairmen shall be in charge of all games during the regular District playing season.
- C. No changes in the District playing schedule may be made without the prior approval of the District Chairman. All incomplete scheduled games must be rescheduled by the teams involved subject to the approval of the District Chairman. If the teams involved can not agree on a new date for a rescheduled game, the District Chairman shall reschedule the game at his discretion which decision shall be final.

- D. District Chairmen shall not allow a manager, coach, or assistant coach of a Post sponsored American Legion Baseball team, whose services have been terminated by such Post, to manage or coach an Outside Sponsored team within their District during the season following the termination without the prior written approval of the Department Athletic Committee.
- E. Districts that elect not to submit District Rules as provided by Rule 7.A, must submit a contact list of all team managers in their District by June 1 to the Department Chairman.

### **RULE 7 - DISTRICT RULES**

- A. District Chairmen, in conjunction with their team managers, may formulate rules for their Districts which are not in conflict with Department and/or National Rules and which are for the good of the American Legion Baseball Program. District Chairmen must submit copies of their District Rules to the Department Chairman on or before May 1, 2010, in electronic format in order to be considered for approval for the ensuing season and must contain a contact list of all team managers in the District.
- B. The Department Chairman may accept all, or any portion thereof, or reject all, or any portion thereof, of any proposed District Rule(s) by written notice to the appropriate District Chairman no later than June 1, 2010. Provided the Department Chairman receives the Rules by May 1, 2010, but then fails to take any action on such proposed Rules by June 1, 2010, they shall become effective for the ensuing season.
  - 1. Any proposed District Rule(s) that has been rejected by the Department Chairman, is rejected for the ensuing season only and may be resubmitted for approval in subsequent seasons.

### **RULE 8 - DISTRICT CHAMPIONS**

- A. The final date for District competition shall be Friday, July 16, 2010, at which time all District Standings shall become final and the District Chairmen shall report the final standings to the Department Chairman. No District games may be played after Friday, July 16, 2010, under any circumstances.
  - 1. Unless District Rules contain tie breaker provisions, all ties for post season playoff berths will be determined by coin toss(es) by the District Chairman no later than Friday, July 16, 2010.

- B. Team standings in all Districts shall be based upon win/loss percentage unless the District Chairman has notified the Department Chairman in writing by May 1, 2010 that their District has elected to base its standings on points; in which case two (2) points shall be awarded for a win and one (1) point for a tie.
  - 1. Districts electing to base their standings on points shall not replay regulation games which end in a tie, otherwise tie games will be replayed in their entirety.
  - 2. This election may be made by separate writing or included in the District Rules.
- C. District Chairmen shall review the Team Credentials for each team in their District eligible to compete in post season play and certify to the appropriate Sectional Coordinator at or prior to the Sectional Meeting that they have personally reviewed each team's Team Credentials and that they are complete.
  - 1. District Chairmen shall disqualify any team from post season play if it is unable to produce a complete set of their Team Credentials.

## **RULE 9 - SUBSTITUTION**

- A. Designated runners and/or free substitution are not permitted within the Department of Massachusetts in any official game. However, the Designated Hitter as provided by Rule 6.10 of the Official Baseball Rules is allowed. Please note that the NCAA Designated Hitter Rule has not been adopted for use within the Department. Any team violating this rule shall forfeit all of their games and be suspended from further play for the remainder of the season.

## **RULE 10 - SUSPENSIONS**

- A. Any manager, coach, player or other official in any capacity with the American Legion Baseball Program who conducts themselves in an ungentlemanly or unsportsmanlike manner, whether in meetings or activities relating thereto, or who otherwise deals with the American Legion Baseball Program in a manner which adversely reflects upon, or otherwise discredits the Program or officials of the Program, shall be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension from further participation in the Program by either the appropriate District Chairman, the Department Chairman, or their respective designees.

1. All such suspensions shall be in writing and briefly outline the reason(s) for the suspension and its duration.
  2. Persons who have been suspended by a District Chairman or his designee, may appeal their suspension to the Department Chairman by filing a typewritten appeal within ten (10) days of their suspension. The Department Chairman, after consultation with the Department Athletic Committee, shall rule on the appeal as soon as possible and his ruling shall be final.
  3. The Department Chairman, at his sole discretion, may elect to convene the full Athletic Committee to hear such an appeal but shall be under no obligation to do so.
- B. The implementation of suspensions shall not be delayed pending the outcome of appeals.
- C. Any manager, coach or other official who knowingly uses or allows an ineligible player to participate in the American Legion Baseball Program, shall be suspended forthwith from the Program and all games in which such players have appeared, shall be forfeit.
- D. Any person who violates any American Legion Baseball Rule shall be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension from further participation in the Program.

## **RULE 11 - PROTESTS**

- A. Official regular season games which have been played under protest must be followed by a typewritten outline of the facts, citing the Rules of Baseball in question, signed by the team manager and delivered to the appropriate District Chairman, by facsimile copy, certified mail, e-mail or hand delivery within 48 hours of the conclusion of the protested game. Only protests involving interpretation of the Official Baseball Rules shall be heard. The District Chairman shall rule on the protest in writing and promptly and notify the team manager of his decision.
1. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent District Chairmen from forming Protest Committees to hear and decide all Protests within their District, provided, however, that such Protest Committee must have first been established by the District Rules.

- B. Team managers who have been aggrieved by adverse rulings on protested games may appeal such decision to the Department Chairman within 48 hours of their receipt of the District Chairman's written decision by facsimile copy, certified mail, e-mail or hand delivery. The appeal must be typewritten, signed by the team manager and include the original protest and the decision of the District Chairman being appealed. The Department Chairman, after consultation with the Head Umpire, shall rule on the appeal as soon as possible and his ruling shall be final.
- C. Team managers, (including proposed team managers of new teams whose admission has been denied) aggrieved by decisions on all other matters other than interpretations of the Rules of Baseball by their District Chairman, may appeal such decision to the Department Chairman within 48 hours of their receipt of the District Chairman's written decision. The appeal must be typewritten, signed by the team manager and filed with the Department Chairman by facsimile copy, certified mail, e-mail or hand delivery. The Department Chairman, after consultation with the Department Athletic Committee, shall rule on the appeal as soon as possible and his ruling shall be final.
  - 1. The Department Chairman, at his sole discretion, may elect to convene the full Athletic Committee to hear such appeal but shall be under no obligation to do so.

## **RULE 12 - PENALTIES**

- A. Any manager, coach, assistant coach, player or official, regardless of their capacity within the American Legion Baseball Program, who violates any National, Department, or District Rule, shall be subject to disciplinary action as provided by these Rules; but if no penalty has been so provided, then such person shall be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Department Athletic Committee. Ignorance of a duly promulgated American Legion Baseball Rule, regardless of the level, shall not constitute a valid defense for such action.
- B. Any person who intentionally misrepresents an American Legion Baseball Rule with the specific intent of causing a player(s) to violate any such Rule, shall be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, immediate suspension from further participation in the American Legion Baseball Program by either the Department Chairman, the appropriate District Chairman or the Department Athletic Committee.

## **RULE 13 - DEPARTMENT CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY**

### **A. Sectional Playoff Participants**

1. Upon completion of the regular season, teams from the Districts shall be arranged as shown below and compete in double elimination tournaments within each Bracket with the team winning three (3) games in each Bracket, (unless decided by Tie Breaker Rule), advancing to the Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament, numbers shown below designate the seeding for each team within the Bracket:

#### **WEST**

##### **BRACKET - A**

1. D2-3 #1
2. D1 #1
3. D2-3 #3
4. D4 #3

##### **BRACKET - B**

1. D4 #1
2. D2-3 #2
3. D4 #2
4. D2-3 #4

#### **NORTH**

##### **BRACKET - A**

1. D8 #1
2. D5 #2
3. D8 #3
4. D5 #4

##### **BRACKET - B**

1. D5 #1
2. D8 #2
3. D5 #3
4. D8 #4

#### **SOUTH**

##### **BRACKET - A**

1. D10 #1
2. D9 #2
3. D6 #3
4. D6 #4

##### **BRACKET - B**

1. D9 #1
2. D6 #2
3. D10 #3
4. D6 #5

##### **BRACKET - C**

1. D6 #1
2. D10 #2
3. D9 #3
4. D10 #4

2. The format for each Bracket Tournament shall be as follows:
 

July 18, 2010	Game #1: Team 1 vs. Team 4
	Game #2: Team 2 vs. Team 3
July 19, 2010	Game #3: Loser G #1 vs. Loser G #2 (Loser G #3 eliminated)
	Game #4: Winner G#1 vs. Winner G #2
July 20, 2010	Game #5: Winner G #3 vs. Loser G #4 (Loser G #5 eliminated)
	Game #6: Winner G #5 vs. Winner G #4
July 21, 2010	Game #7: If necessary in the event there is no undefeated team.
  
3. All Bracket Tournaments shall be scheduled to commence on Sunday, July 18, 2010, weather permitting, and must be completed by conclusion of play on Thursday, July 22, 2010.
  
4. The home team for each Bracket Tournament game shall be the higher seeded team. Times, locations and costs associated with all games will be announced prior to the commencement of the Bracket Tournament games and will be under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Department Chairman and his designated Sectional Coordinators.
  
5. The ten (10) run mercy rule (National Rule 1.P) will be in effect during the Bracket Tournament with games ending after the losing team has completed its seventh (7th) time at bat if losing by ten (10) or more runs.
  
6. The twelve (12) inning pitching rule (National Rule 1.N) will be in effect during the Bracket Tournament. Sectional Coordinators will monitor pitching records and inform the teams and umpires prior to the commencement of each game.
  
7. All team personnel on the field and in the dugout area must be in complete uniform identical to the team players, jackets and pullovers may be worn over the uniform provided the American Legion patch is attached to the jacket or pullover.
  
8. Tie Breaker Rule. In the event no team has won three (3) games in a Bracket Tournament by the conclusion of play on Thursday, July 23, 2010, then the Bracket Tournament winner will be determined as follows:
  - a. The team with the most wins in the Bracket Tournament will be the winner;

- b. If still tied, then the team with the least losses in the Bracket Tournament will be the winner; and
  - c. If still tied, then the highest seeded team among the teams that have not lost two (2) games in the Bracket Tournament will be the winner.
9. Subject to the provisions of Department Rule 1.A.1, all Bracket Tournament games shall be scheduled as nine (9) inning games with the score of games that have been called by the umpire after they have progressed far enough to become regulation games being final. Subject to the provisions of subsection (a) of this Rule, regulation games that have been called by the umpire with a tie score shall become suspended games and completed as directed by the Department Chairman.
- a. A game that has progressed far enough to become regulation which has been called by an umpire for reasons other than man made obstructions, ends at the moment the umpire terminates play. If the game is called while an inning is in progress and before it is completed, the score of the game shall revert back to the end of the last completed inning if the visiting team scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead in its half of the incomplete inning and the home team did not tie the score or retake the lead in its half of the incomplete inning.
10. Sectional Coordinators shall conduct a meeting for all teams eligible to participate in their Bracket Tournament by Saturday, July 18, 2010. District Chairmen, or their representatives, shall personally inspect the Team Credentials for each Team from their District and certify to the Sectional Coordinators that all Credentials are Complete.
- a. Any Team that is unable to produce a complete set of its Credentials shall be removed from further participation in Department Championship Play.
  - b. All Teams shall exchange copies of their fully executed Form 1 (both sides) with all other Teams in their Bracket at the Meeting. The Sectional Coordinators shall enforce the provisions of this Rule.
    - (i) Protests of player eligibility shall be made to the Sectional Coordinator forthwith, who, after conferring with the Department Chairman, shall rule on the Protest prior to the next game.

11. The seven bracket winners and the host team will meet in the Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament.
12. All protests involving interpretations of the Official Baseball Rules in Bracket Tournament or Final Eight Team Department Championship games must be made to the umpires before the next pitch is made or a runner is retired and will be decided by the Department Official in attendance at the game.
  - a. Appeals of the Department Official's decision at Bracket Tournament games may be made to the Department Chairman in writing by hand delivery, e-mail or facsimile transmission as soon as practicable but in no event later than 12 a.m. of the date of the protested game or 3 hours after the completion of such game which ever is later. The Department Chairman's decision shall be final.
13. The host team of the Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament shall compete in the Bracket Tournament, if eligible, but shall also have a direct berth in the Department Championship Tournament as the Host Team.
  - a. In the event the Host Team wins its Bracket Tournament, its place as winner of the Bracket will be taken in the Department Championship Tournament by the highest seeded losing team in the Host Team's Bracket.
14. There shall be two (2) umpires at each Bracket Tournament game and the fee shall be \$75.00 per umpire. The umpires shall be paid the \$75.00 fee for completion of suspended games.

#### B. Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament

1. The 2010 Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament will be held at Campanelli Stadium, Brockton, MA beginning on Saturday, July 24, 2010 and concluding on Wednesday, July 28, 2010, weather permitting.
2. The host team will be Brockton Post # 35, Brockton, MA.

#### **SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2010**

Game 1	North A	vs.	South B	9:30 a.m. Double Header
Game 2	West A	vs.	South A	
Game 3	North B	vs.	West B	4:30 p.m. Double Header
Game 4	South C	vs.	<u>Brockton Post # 35</u>	

## **SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2010**

Game 5    Loser Game 1    vs. Loser Game 3    9:30 a.m. Double Header  
Game 6    Loser 2                vs. Loser 4

Game 7    Winner Game 1    vs. Winner Game 3    4:30 p.m. Double Header  
Game 8    Winner Game 2    vs. Winner Game 4

## **MONDAY, JULY 26, 2010**

Game 9    Winner Game 6    vs. Loser Game 7    1:05 p.m. Single Game

Game 10   Winner Game 5    vs. Loser Game 8    4:30 p.m. Double Header  
Game 11   Winner Game 7    vs. Winner Game 8

## **TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2010**

Game 12   Winner Game 9    vs. Loser Game 11    4:30 p.m. Double Header  
Game 13   Winner Game 10    vs. Winner Game 11

## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2010**

Game 14   Winner Game 12    vs. Winner Game 13    4:30 p.m.

Game 15   If necessary, will be a 7:00 p.m. start, even if it commences the following day.

- C. Pairings for Games 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, the winner of Game 11 automatically draws the bye for Game 14.
- D. All Department Championship play (Bracket and Final Tournaments) shall be under the sole jurisdiction of the Department Athletic Committee, represented by its Chairman and his designees.
- E. Umpires shall be assigned by the Department Chairman or his designee.
- F. Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament Playing Rules
  1. All games are to be played to completion, 9 innings no matter the reason for the suspension of play.
  2. Games suspended for any reason will be completed from point of suspension at the direction of the Department Chairman.

3. Games suspended on one day and completed the following day shall be charged as if played the previous day with innings pitched by the same pitcher and the appearance charged to first day.
  4. The umpire in chief shall order the playing field lights turned on whenever in his opinion darkness makes further play hazardous. After a game has been started, the umpire in chief is to be the sole judge as to when field lights are to be turned on. He should call for the lights before the beginning of a full inning unless some extraordinary condition or abnormally long inning prompts otherwise.
  5. The umpire in chief shall be the sole judge as to whether and when play shall be halted during a game because of unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field. The Department Chairman or his designee will be in complete charge of the Tournament and will be the sole judge as to the fitness of the playing field concerning the suspension of play that will result in completion of that game at another day and time, and shall be the only person authorized to postpone a game.
  6. The umpire in chief must make notation on the lineup cards of suspended games of the exact situation the moment play is suspended, i.e. inning, score, outs, runners on base by name, batter by name, count on batter and defensive player due to bat first next inning by name. The same lineup cards will be used when the suspended game is resumed.
- F. The Department Chairman or his designee shall be in attendance at the Northeast Regional No. 1 Tournament as long as a Department of Massachusetts team is involved in that competition.

## **RULE 14 - DUAL PARTICIPATION**

- A. During the regular season, players and/or teams, with their Manager's written consent, may participate in other amateur baseball programs, tournaments, exhibition games, showcases or combines provided such participation in no way interferes with the player's and/or team's responsibilities to the American Legion Baseball Program and provided the Department Chairman assents in writing in advance.
1. Players and/or team Managers may seek permission from the Department Chairman by filing the fully executed Dual Participation Authorization Request Form (available on the Department's web site) with their District Chairman prior to participating in the event. Players and/or teams found to

have violated this rule are subject to disciplinary action including suspension from the Program.

2. District Chairmen shall have authority to approve the Request provided no portion of the requested time period extends beyond the regular season and into their District Playoffs or beyond. Once approved, District Chairmen shall forthwith forward the Form to the Department Chairman.

B. Once post season play has begun, (District Playoffs through the American Legion World Series) neither players nor teams may participate in any non American Legion Baseball games, tournaments, showcases, combines or tryouts until their team has been eliminated from further American Legion play.

1. Any American Legion Baseball player missing any portion of his team's post season game because that player participated in another non-sanctioned baseball event shall be ineligible from further post season play.

#### C. BAY STATE GAMES - ALL EVENTS

Players may tryout for any Bay State Games event provided no more than two players from any one team may be released to compete in the Bay State Games. American Legion players shall not be released to participate in the Bay State Games if any portion of the event they will be participating in will take place during their American Legion team's post season play. The baseball portion of the Bay State Games will take place between July 6, 2010 and July 10, 2010 at Bentley College.

1. Team Managers who will not release players to participate in the 2010 Bay State Games must notify their District Chairman in writing prior to May 15, 2010, otherwise it will be presumed their players will be released.

2. Players who have been informed by Bay State Game officials that they have been selected to compete in the Bay State Games must obtain the Department Bay State Release Form from their Manager which is available on the Department's web site. After the Form has been fully executed, the player may participate in the Bay State Games.

3. Team Managers must forward a copy of the Form to their District Chairman. No more than 2 players may be released from any one team to participate in the Bay State Games, all events.

4. Players who participate in the Bay State Games without a proper Release shall be suspended from the Program for the remainder of the American Legion season including post season play.
5. Team Managers are encouraged to discuss their pitching rotation with Bay State Game coaches for their pitchers who have been chosen to participate in the Bay State Games.
  - a. Bay State Game Rules limit pitchers to 4 innings per game and 7 innings for the entire Games.
6. Bay State Game Rules require their coaches to release players in time to attend their American Legion games, thus players should use their best effort to return to their American Legion team in time for its games.

**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL  
PAST DEPARTMENT GRADUATES OF THE YEAR**

1990	Rick Murphy/Mike Casey	Owners, Pittsfield Red Sox
1991	Mike Labrie	Attorney, Manager Aldenville Post 337
1992	Fran Healy	Announcer, New York Mets
1993	Dan Duquette	General Manager, Montreal Expos
1994	Dick Paster	Attorney, Manager Westwood Post 320
1995	Nick Malvesti	Morrisette Post 294
1996	Turk Wendel	Pitcher, Chicago Cubs
1997	Bob Brown	Manager, Canton Post 24
2002	Ray Cattaneo	Manager, Morrisette Post 294
2003	Tom Arruda	Manager, Spindle City
2004	John T. Mahan	Manager, Clinton Post 50
2005	Paul Dumas	Manager, Foxboro Post 93
2006	Merrill E. Fleck, Sr.	Dept. Athletic Committee Chairman
2007	Dan Carroll	District 6 Head Umpire
2008	Ralph White	Manager, Walpole Post 104
2010	Andy Rogers	District 2 Chairman

## **CONCLUSION**

The rules and regulations for American Legion Baseball have developed over the years, based upon the experience, both good and bad, given to the Department Baseball Athletic Committee by managers, coaches, parents and other Legionnaires. The Department Athletic Committee meets throughout the year to discuss and make recommendations for the good of the program. Changes affecting the national program are forwarded to the National Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee, who in turn, make final recommendations to the National Americanism Commission who either adopt or reject these recommendations. Department Chairmen and members of the National Americanism Commission vote on policy, procedures and rules. It is those suggestions passed on from parents, coaches and team managers which have allowed the American Legion Baseball program to become the most prestigious amateur baseball program in America.

For eighty four seasons, The American Legion has sponsored this baseball program. American Legion Baseball is the largest, nationwide, teenage baseball program in America. Literally, millions of young players have played the game. This program has developed over the past seven decades thanks to the dedication of hundreds of thousands of volunteer American Legion members. To the Coaches, Managers, Sponsors and the thousands of Legion Volunteers who help make the program exist, we extend our most sincere appreciation.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

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- January 31** Final date to submit New Team Applications or Plan "B" Base School changes unless District Rules provide earlier dates. Final date to submit Team Registration Forms to District Chairmen.
- March 1** Final date for District Chairmen to submit New Team Applications or Plan "B" Base School changes to Department Athletic Committee Chairman.
- March 31** Establishment of Player's Legal Residence, parent's domicile and school enrollment.
- April 1** Final date for teams to obtain insurance from American Legion's insurance agent of record without Department fine.
- May 1** Final date to submit District Rules and/or point system election to Department Chairman.
- May 9** Final date for teams to hold Player Registration Session.
- June 6** Final date to complete rosters on National Office Website.
- June 12** Final date to replace players on team roster.
- July 16** Final date games may be played at District level. District Champion must be named on this date.
- July 18** Bracket Tournaments commence (weather permitting).
- July 24** Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament begins at Campanelli Stadium, Brockton, MA.
- August 6** Northeast Regional Tournament begins at Manchester, NH.
- August 14** American Legion World Series at Fargo, ND.
- Feb. 1, 2011** Final date to submit bids for the 2012 Department Championship Tournament to Department Athletic Committee Chairman.

## **American Legion Baseball Code of Sportsmanship**

As an American Legion Baseball Player, Coach or Official,

I WILL . . .

**KEEP THE RULES**

**KEEP THE 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.**

## **AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL Past Department Champions**

1926 - Rutland	1968 - East Springfield Post 420
1927 - No Program	1969 - Lynn Post 6
1928 - Worcester Post 5	1970 - Milford Post 59
1929 - New Bedford Post 1	1971 - Leominster Post 151
1930 - Milford Post 59	1972 - Milford Post 59
1931 - Milford Post 59	1973 - Pittsfield - O/S Tyler Aces
1932 - Springfield Post 21	1974 - East Springfield Post 420
1933 - New Bedford Post 1	1975 - West Quincy Post 294
1934 - Springfield Post 21	1976 - South Hadley Post 260
1935 - East Lynn Post 291	1977 - Shrewsbury Post 397
1936 - Lowell Post 87	1978 - East Springfield Post 420
1937 - East Lynn Post 291	1979 - West Boylston Post 204
1938 - Revere Post 61	1980 - Brockton - O/S Spartan A.C.
1939 - Medford Post 45	1981 - Somerville Post 19.
1940 - Pittsfield Post 68	1982 - Braintree Post 86
1941 - Brockton Post 35	1983 - Natick Post 107
1942 - Norwood Post 70	1984 - Braintree Post 86
1943 - Lynn Post 6	1985 - Norwood Post 70
1944 - Brockton Post 35	1986 - Norwood Post 70
1945 - Holyoke Post 25	1987 - Norwood Post 70
1946 - Holyoke Post 25	1988 - Lynn Post 6
1947 - Medford Post 45	1989 - Braintree Post 86
1948 - Brockton Post 35	1990 - Fall River - O/S Spindle City
1949 - Pittsfield Post 68	1991 - Lowell Post 87
1950 - Somerville Post 19	1992 - West Quincy Post 294
1951 - Pittsfield Post 68	1993 - Sandwich Post 188
1952 - Milford Post 59	1994 - Walpole Post 104
1953 - Milford Post 59	1995 - Swampscott - O/S Mariners
1954 - Brockton Post 35	1996 - Swampscott - O/S Mariners
1955 - Everett Post 176	1997 - New Bedford Post 1
1956 - Everett Post 176	1998 - Gloucester Post 3
1957 - Pittsfield Post 68	1999 - South Attleboro Post 312
1958 - Everett Post 176	2000 - Lowell Post 87
1959 - Milford Post 59	2001 - Milford Post 59
1960 - Pittsfield Post 68	2002 - Sandwich Post 188
1961 - Chicopee Post 452	2003 - Grafton Hill Post 323
1962 - Somerville Post 19	2004 - Andover Post 8
1963 - Somerville Post 19	2005 - Sandwich Post 188
1964 - East Longmeadow Post 293	2006 - Milton Post 114
1965 - Northborough Post 234	2007 - Brockton Post 35
1966 - Milford Post 59	2008 - Hanover Post 149
1967 - East Lynn Post 291	2009 - Newburyport Post 150