

RULE 1 - PLAYING REGULATIONS

All games will be played under the Official Baseball Rules, The American Legion National Baseball Rules, and National Bylaws of The American Legion, except as follows:

- (A) All players participating in The American Legion Baseball games in the Department of Louisiana are required to wear double-flapped ear protective helmet while batting and running the bases. Any player refusing to do so will not be permitted to play. Catchers are required to wear some type of safety helmet, and throat protectors on catcher's masks are mandatory. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, a catcher must wear a mask. Bat attendants must wear double-flapped ear protective headgear while on the playing field. Coaches who are coaching on the base lines will wear protective head wear; (Batting helmet, or head gear in compliance with Major League Baseball).
- (B) Only bats may be used in warming up in the deck area or in any other location. Weighted bats, devices designed to attach to and remain part of the bat, such as weighted donuts or wind resistant foils are permitted. Sledge hammers, weighted pipes and other heavy paraphernalia are not permitted.
- (C) No player in National, Department or District competition may pitch more than twelve (12) innings or make more than four (4) appearances in any three (3) consecutive playing day periods. Upon completion of twelve (12) innings (after 36 outs) pitcher must be removed immediately.
 - (1) An appearance on the mound will be governed by playing regulations. Any pitcher may be removed as a pitcher and can remain in the game at another position. However, if that pitcher is removed automatically as a pitcher by a second appearance to the mound by the coach in the same inning, that pitcher cannot return as pitcher in that game. An appearance becomes official when a pitcher announces to the umpire and scorer. If a pitcher has permission to play with another league, his innings pitched

in the last seventy-two (72) hours must carry over into The American Legion Baseball competition.

- (2) Parts of an inning will be determined by the number of outs when a pitcher is relieved.
 - (3) The time of each days activities starts at 8:00 a.m. local time and ends at 8:00 a.m. the following day.
 - (4) The first day of appearance and innings pitched are dropped on the fourth day.
 - (5) It will be the responsibility of the Team Coach to keep track of innings pitched and number of appearances of his pitcher.
- (D) All teams must be covered by group accident and liability insurance for the entire season before they will be permitted to play. Proper evidence must be furnished that teams have applied for insurance coverage before they are permitted to play. (Copy of certificate of insurance must be sent to Commission Chairman).
- (E) It is recommended that in order to accomplish more participation in The American Legion Baseball, free substitution is allowed on District level. It is further recommended The National Federation of State High School Association plan be implemented to achieve this goal.
- (F) The American Legion Baseball insignia must be worn on the left sleeve or left breast of the uniform shirt. The front of the uniform shirt may carry lettering or wording that identifies the Post, Department, Town, City, Community or Sponsor which the team represents.

RULE 2 - PLAYER RECRUITMENT

- (A) Players in elementary schools, middle schools, junior high and ninth grade freshmen high school students must play for the base school team nearest their parent's legal residence. Enrollment of the schools they attend will not be counted. If a player attends a high school from which no team is recruited, and if no team is recruited in the

community of this legal residence, he may play for a team nearest his parent's legal residence. But if a new team comes in, a player may elect to play with either team.

- (1) If a player actually resides inside a town, the measurements must be made by mileage from city limit along with any recognized public and maintained route to the nearest base school building.
 - (2) If a player lives outside the limits of a town, the measurements must be made as set forth above from his residence to the school building from which a team is recruited.
- (B) Any player who has received a written release from the team to which he is presently assigned by Department rules, provided it does not conflict with National rules, can only play with the team nearest his legal residence. A written release may be granted by the District Commission Chairman.

RULE 3 - PROTESTS

- (A) All protests of player's eligibility must be specific and set forth definite proof (in writing). Hearsay evidence will not be considered in connection with protests of any kind. All parties involved in the protest will be notified of time and place of hearing. All parties will be present. A written decision will be made.
- (B) All protests relative to the playing of any game must be made in writing accompanied by proof to support the protest and filed with or mailed to the Department Commission Chairman within twenty-four (24) hours after the playing of the game accompanied by a fee of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00). All protests must be based upon violation of a cardinal rule of baseball. No protests regarding the decision of an umpire on a ball or strike, fair or foul hit ball, safe or an out play will be entertained. Protests arising out of intra-district play shall be made to and be passed on by the District Commission Chairman.

- (C) All protests and requests for rulings on the District level must be made through the District Commission Chairman and appeals must be made to the Department Commission Chairman. No direct requests to the National Director will be considered.

RULE 4 - RECORDS REQUIRED

- (A) Each team must file and register with the District Commission Chairman in charge of The American Legion Baseball Program the Team Certificate of Entry (National Form #1 and Form #2) and Code of Ethics Form prior to the first District or League game. No other forms will be accepted. All District Commission Chairmen must forward a copy of the team entry by June 23, 2008 to the Department Commission Chairman (in triplicate).
- (B) The Certificate of Entry (National Form #1) and Code of Ethics must be completed with each players full name, date of birth and name of school attended on March 31, 2008. The Form #1 must be signed by: the Team Manager, Business Manager, Coach, the Post Adjutant or The American Legion Representative.

School enrollment or school attendance will be certified by written signature of the proper school authority. Form #1 must be typed.
Form #2 may be typed or printed.

- (C) A team in The American Legion, Department of Louisiana, Baseball Program may be sponsored by an American Legion Post or outside sponsorship.

RULE 5 - TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION

- (A) For players born in the State of Louisiana, one of the following documents may be substituted for the official certificate required by National Rule #2.
- (1) A certified extract from the official record issued by the Department of Health or photo static certificate of live birth is accepted.

NOTE: The following are never accepted as legal birth records for The American Legion Baseball Program purposes: baptismal certificates, school certificates or records, or hospital records.

- (B) Louisiana Driver's Licenses, Pass Port ID, State issued ID and Id issued by the American Legion.
- (C) A record of a player's birth will be available for inspection and produced forthwith upon a reasonable demand by any representative of any opposing team or by a District or Department official of The American Legion, when acting within the scope of their official duties, until such time as records are forwarded to the Department Commission Chairman.
- (D) The Senior American Legion Baseball competition in the year 2008 is open to players born on or after January 1, 1989. Any player born before January 1, 1989 is not eligible.

**RULE 6 - DEPARTMENT COMMISSION CHAIRMAN &
DISTRICT COMMISSION CHAIRMEN**

(THEIR AUTHORITY AND DUTIES)

- (A) The Department Commission Chairman of The American Legion, Department of Louisiana Baseball Program or his duly appointed representative will have the power to disqualify, suspend, or remove any Manager, Coach, Player, or Team (whose actions reflect or discredit this program) violating any of these rules in effect within their jurisdiction or violating any rule in the Code of Ethics.
- (B) The District Commission Chairmen will have supervision and control of The American Legion Baseball Program within the District and until the District Championship will have been decided, and the District Championship Team certified to the Department Commission Chairman. They will be responsible for promotion of baseball in their respective Districts and Post Athletic Officers are requested to contact them on all baseball matters and problems up to and including the

District Championship. They will certify as to the correctness of team entries schedules.

RULE 7 - CHAMPIONSHIP ELIMINATION

- (A) All District Champions must be determined no later than July 16, 2008. Any extension granted past this date must be approved by the Department Commission Chairman. The pitching rule will be carried into state play-off.
- (B) Prior to tournament play, each District Commission Chairman or his District Co-Chairman acting for him, will certify the District Championship Team to the Department Commission Chairman.
- (C) The committee responsible for setting up and administering the State Championship Tournaments will be the District Commission Chairmen involved along with the Department Commission Chairman. **(Additional information will be added).**
- (D) Each District Champion will be responsible for all expenses of its team throughout sub-regional play as well as to the State Tournament site. At the conclusion of the Sub-Regional Tournaments, net proceeds will be divided on a percentage basis which will be determined by the final standings in the tournament.
- (E) The American Legion Baseball, Department of Louisiana Champion must be decided no later than August 10, 2008.
- (F) All traveling expenses must be assumed by the Post sponsoring the team in case the proceeds of the tournament are not sufficient to take care of their expenses.
- (G) The Department Commission Chairman of The American Legion Baseball or his authorized representative will be present at all championship games.
- (H) Districts may add rules for District play only, subject to approval of the Department Commission Chairman.

- (I) Representatives of all participating Districts must be present at the meeting for emergency pairings changes for sub-regional tournament.
- (J) The Department Commission Chairman or his official representative will determine whether any new inning will start after midnight.
- (K) Certified umpires for sub-regional tournaments will be selected by host chairman and certified by the Department Commission Chairman.
- (L) The Tournament Chairman will certify birth certificates/approved records of legal age one week prior to beginning of scheduled ball game if possible.
- (M) The American Legion Baseball rules provide for suspension for the season for the attack by a baseball player or coach upon another baseball player, coach or umpire in an American Legion Baseball park.
- (N) It will be the responsibility of the Department Commission Chairman, District Commission Chairman, Post Chairman, Team Managers and Coaches to see that all players are neat and properly groomed and that players and coaches will be in complete uniform when they arrive on the playing field.
- (O) A disqualified team or a team that deliberately forfeits a game will not receive revenues from tournament play.
- (P) Rained out games during tournament or Department play will be picked up where left off and the pitching rule will still be in effect.
- (Q) In any tournament play, a Coach, Manager or Player ejected from the game will be suspended from the next regularly scheduled played game. If this is the last game of the tournament, the Coach, Manager or Player will be suspended by the Department Commission Chairman. While under suspension, such Coach or Manager will not be allowed in the ball park for the next regularly scheduled played game. The Player will not be allowed to participate until he sits out a complete game in uniform in the dugout. If he refuses, he will not be allowed to participate in tournament play until he does.