AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

2026 SENIOR RULE BOOK

Diamond®

THE OFFICIAL BASEBALL

OF THE AMERICAN LEGION WORLD SERIES

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PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

1. To inculcate in youth a better understanding of the American way of life and to promote the principles of 100 percent Americanism.
2. To instill in the nation's youth a sincere desire to develop within themselves a feeling of citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty and team spirit.
3. To aid in the improvement and development of the physical fitness of our country's youth.
4. To build for the nation's future through our youth.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

I will:

Keep the rules

Keep 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

2026 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

The Americanism Commission has approved the following rule changes for the 2026 American Legion Baseball season:

1.G. Courtesy Runners. Departments may use the courtesy runner during regular and post season.

1.S. One-Way Communication. A coach may use a one-way electronic communication with the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches.

6.D. Dual Participation. Including player combine/evaluation of extended drills and/or game-like scenarios events with proper documentation and prior written approval from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman under CLARIFICATION.

9.L. Minimum Active Players. Senior teams that have fewer players available from their approved roster strength are permitted to bring up players registered on their affiliated junior roster to the senior team to approved roster strength.

9.M. Between Inning Time Limit. During state, regional and world series tournaments, teams have 120 seconds (or 150 seconds for a relief pitcher) to be ready for the first pitch (pitcher holding the ball and touching the pitcher's plate and a batter standing in the batter's box ready to hit).

The following Major League Baseball (MLB) rules have not been adopted for regular season or tournament play:

- Rule 2.03 – 18-Inch Bases (no penalty or forfeit if used)
- Limit the number of throws (pick-off attempts) to first base
- Rule 5.10g – Minimum Batters Faced Requirement
- Ohtani Rule 5.11(b) – ALB rule is designated hitter for pitchers only.
- Pitcher's Clock

    a) Rule 5.07(c) – Pitcher Delays will be observed but not timed.

    b) When the bases are unoccupied, the pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter within 12 seconds after he receives the ball. Each

time the pitcher delays the game by violating this rule, the umpire shall call a "ball."

- Mound Visits

    a) Rule 5.10(m) – Limitation on Number of Mound Visits Per Game

    b) Rule 5.10(l) – ALB will continue to follow the two visits per inning that requires a change of pitcher.

MLB rule changes are not automatically adopted by ALB when introduced. A transition period will be observed to analyze, discuss, and vote to adopt or deny such changes. New rules will be considered in odd-numbered years.

SENIOR BASEBALL RULES

PLAYING REGULATIONS RULE 1

A. Baseballs. An American Legion Baseball authenticating logo is recommended on all baseballs used in regular season and required for all post-season competition. A current list of authentic products is online at **emblem.legion.org.**

B. Bat Rule.

1. Wood bat. The bat must be a smooth, rounded stick not more than 2¾ inches in diameter at its thickest part nor more than 42 inches in length. An indentation in the end of the bat up to 1 inch in depth is permitted (cupped bats).

2. Non-wood bats. Metal, ceramic, composite or graphite bats may be used provided they do not exceed 36 inches in length and the maximum diameter is 2⅝ inches.

3. Any non-wood bat must have the BBCOR certification code marked on the barrel of the bat.

4. Any non-wood bat that does not display the approved certification mark or in the umpire's judgment has been altered shall be removed from the game, and the player and team manager shall be ejected.

C. The Batter. The batter shall take his position in the batter's box promptly when it is his time at bat.

1. The batter shall not leave his position in the batter's box after the pitcher comes to set position or starts his windup.

2. The batter shall keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the batter's time at bat, unless one of the following exceptions applies, in which case the batter may leave the batter's box but not the dirt area surrounding home plate:

   a) The batter swings at a pitch;

   b) The batter is forced out of the batter's box by a pitch;

   c) A member of either team requests and is granted "Time";

d) A defensive player attempts a play on a runner at any base;

e) The batter feints a bunt;

f) A wild pitch or passed ball occurs;

g) The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound after receiving the ball;

h) The catcher leaves the catcher's box to give defensive signals.

(Official Baseball Rule 6.)

POINT OF EMPHASIS

American Legion Baseball umpires are to enforce this pace of play rule.

D. Blood Rule. If a player suffers from a laceration or other injury where blood is visible, the game shall be stopped at the earliest possible time and the athlete treated immediately. If the injury requires extensive treatment, a substitute shall replace the injured player. (Umpires are directed to give a reasonable amount of time to allow all injured players to be treated.)

E. Catcher's Equipment. Catchers are required to wear a safety helmet, throat protector and protective cup, in addition to normal catcher's equipment:

1. All catcher's masks must have a built-in or attachable throat guard. Umpires and tournament officials shall halt the game until this rule is complied with.

2. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, any player or coach must wear a mask. Any person who refuses to do so shall be ejected from the game.

F. Coaches. Only those players and coaches listed on the team's National (Electronic) Registration Form #1 or Coaches Drop/Add Form #5 are permitted on the coaching lines.

G. Courtesy Runners. Departments may use the courtesy runner rule for their respective American Legion Baseball program during regular and post season: "Teams have the option to use a courtesy

runner for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time. The umpire-in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation and announce it to the official scorer. For speed-up purposes, it is recommended that the courtesy runner be used with two men out in all games."

CLARIFICATION

The courtesy runner rule does not apply to a pinch-hitter for the catcher unless the catcher has been re-entered. A team may not use the same runner for the pitcher and catcher in the same inning. The courtesy runner may not be removed from a base to become a pinch hitter. A player removed from the game may not be used as a courtesy runner. Should the courtesy runner pinch hit, pinch run or enter the game at any position, he will no longer be eligible to be a courtesy runner. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered an illegal substitute.

H. Collisions. The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid collisions whenever possible.

1. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the umpire shall judge:

   a) Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (the runner could have reached the base without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the base was blocked), or

   b) Whether the runner was actually attempting to reach the base (plate) or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder.

   PENALTY – If the runner a) could have avoided the collision and reached the base or b) attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out, even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

   Ruling 1 – If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the base (plate), the runner may make contact, slide into or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base or plate.

Ruling 2 – If the collision by the runner was flagrant, the runner shall be declared out and ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead.

2. If the defensive player blocks the base (plate) or base line without the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a delayed dead ball shall be called.

   Ruling – If the runner collides flagrantly, he shall be declared safe on the obstruction but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.

3. Collisions at home plate. A runner attempting to score may not deviate from his direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate), or otherwise initiate an avoidable collision. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a runner attempting to score initiates contact with the catcher (or other player covering home plate) in such a manner, the umpire shall declare the runner out (regardless of whether the player covering home plate maintains possession of the ball). In such circumstances, the umpire shall call the ball dead, and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. If the runner slides into the plate in an appropriate manner, he shall not be adjudged to have violated Rule 1.H.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

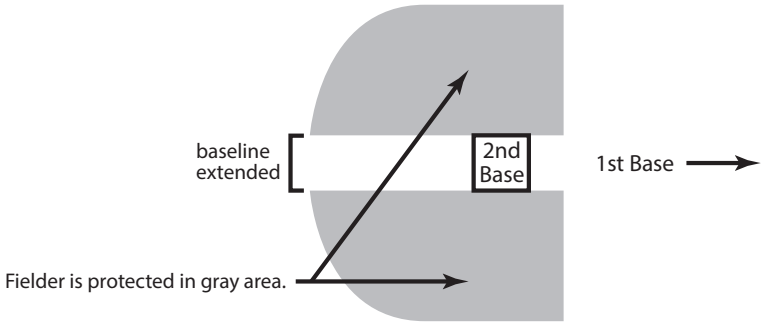
Any player who, in the judgment of the umpire, maliciously contacts another player is automatically ejected and, if the offender is a runner, is declared out. The American Legion is concerned that some coaches may not explain to their players that malicious contact is illegal. The majority of intentional collisions occur at home plate, where the catcher is blocking the plate. Runners should be instructed to slide directly to the plate or away from the catcher to avoid making contact with the catcher, especially when the defender is in possession of the ball. Umpires have been instructed that if there is any intentional and excessive force, or if there is any intent to injure another player, the offending player shall be ejected from the game. The malicious contact penalty will be enforced whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. Any player ejected by an umpire is automatically removed from the tournament, unless the tournament director reinstates that player.

I. Designated Hitter (DH) Rule (pitcher only). A hitter may be designated to bat for the starting pitcher and all subsequent pitchers in any game without otherwise affecting the status of the pitcher(s) in the game.

J. Fake Tag Rule. A fake tag is an act by a defensive player without the ball that simulates a tag. A fake tag is considered obstruction.

K. Force-Play-Slide Rule. The intent of the force-play-slide rule is to ensure the safety of all players. This is a safety as well as an interference rule. Whether the defense could have completed the double play has no bearing on the applicability of this rule. This rule pertains to a force-play situation at any base, regardless of the number of outs.

1. On any force play, the runner must slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases. It is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the base in the baseline extended.



Exception: A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the runner slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. Interference will not be called.

a) "On the ground" means either a head-first slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground.

b) "Directly into a base" means the runner's entire body (feet, legs, trunk and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.

2. Contact with a fielder is legal, and interference shall not be called if the runner makes a legal slide directly to the base and in the baseline extended.

3. Actions by a runner are illegal and interference shall be called if:

   a) The runner slides or runs out of the base line in the direction of the fielder and alters the play of the fielder (with or without contact).

   b) The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder.

   c) The runner's raised leg makes contact higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position.

   d) The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg.

   e) The runner illegally slides toward or contacts the fielder even if the fielder makes no attempt to throw to complete a play.

   PENALTY for a-e:

   1. With less than two outs, the batter-runner, as well as the interfering runner, shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.
   2. With two outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.
   3. If the runner's slide or collision is flagrant, the runner shall be ejected from the game.

CLARIFICATION

If the bases are loaded with no outs, a double-play attempt is made and interference is called, all other runners must return to their original bases.

L. First-Aid Kit. Each team must have a first-aid kit in the dugout at each game.

M. Games per day. No team shall be required to play more than two games in one day. Playing days will begin at 8 a.m. local time.

N. Helmets. All players are required to wear a double-flapped, ear-protective helmet while batting, running the bases and on deck.

1. Bat boys or girls must wear a double-flapped, ear-protective helmet at all times.

2. All batting helmets must have the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) seal of approval stamped on the helmet, and such seal must be visible on the outside of the helmet.

3. Base coaches are required to wear a standard batting helmet, with or without earflaps (safety rule: ejection for non-compliance after one warning). Batters are required to wear a standard batting helmet with earflaps.

CLARIFICATION

Any helmet that has a crack, or inside padding that is worn or missing, cannot be used and must be removed from the game.

O. Insurance. Every American Legion Baseball team must purchase both group liability and accident insurance from the Legion's agent of record (K&K Insurance). Coverage must be purchased by the department deadline date or no later than June 1. Violation of this rule will result in the disqualification from any further competition.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

Teams interested in playing American Legion Baseball must have liability and accident insurance in force prior to the first practice or team tryout. The American Legion National Executive Committee has mandated that insurance must be purchased from the agent of record for The American Legion, which is K&K Insurance.

Specific questions concerning coverage must be directed to the agent of record at **1-800-441-3994**. Any team that wishes to play American Legion Baseball must purchase insurance from K&K Insurance.

P. Lightning Safety. The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a default policy to those responsible for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of contests based on the presence of lightning.

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during events.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby shelters.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
   a) When thunder is heard or a lightning bolt is seen within 8 miles, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
   b) Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
   c) For any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count, reset the clock and start another 30-minute count.
4. If available, electronic detection devices should be used as additional tools to determine the severity of the weather. However, such devices should not be used as the sole source when considering terminating play.
5. Hold periodic reviews for appropriate personnel.

Q. National Senior Tournament Rules. The Americanism Division may prescribe such rules for the playing of any national tournament as it considers necessary. Copies of these rules are available from the tournament director.

R. On-Deck Equipment. Equipment permitted in the on-deck area includes bats, weighted and unweighted, and devices designed to attach to and remain part of the bat, such as weights and wind-resistant foils. Sledgehammers, weighted pipes and other "homemade" heavy items are not permitted. Devices deemed unsafe by the umpires and/or tournament director cannot be used.

S. **One-Way Communication.** A coach may use a one-way electronic communication device to communicate with the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches. Coaches may not use electronic communication device(s) to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense. When using the electronic communication device, the coach cannot

be outside the dugout/bench area. A tablet computer used for scorekeeping purposes only is permissible.

T. Pitching Rule. No player may pitch more than a total of 105 pitches per day. A pitcher will be allowed to finish a batter if he reaches or exceeds the maximum limit during an at-bat, but must exit the position after that hitter. No player may enter the game as a pitcher without having fulfilled the required rest days as mandated in the chart below. No player may make more than two appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period. PENALTY – The pitcher is removed from the pitcher's position and head coach shall be ejected from the game and serve an additional game suspension.

1. Any player may be removed from the pitching position and remain in the game at another position. However, a pitcher will be automatically removed from the position when a coach makes a second trip to the mound in the same inning, and that player cannot return as a pitcher in that game. PENALTY – Forfeiture of the game if a protest is filed with the umpire-in-chief before the last out of the game.

CLARIFICATION

At all national, regional and World Series tournaments, any game suspended by the on-site tournament director will become a suspended game and will be completed from the point of suspension.

	Daily max (pitches in game)	**Required rest** (pitches)				
		0 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days
ALB Senior Program	105	0-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+

2. If a player returns as a pitcher in the same game, he will be charged with another appearance.

3. If a team has multiple games on the same day, a pitcher who pitches more than 45 pitches in Game 1 may not pitch in a subsequent game that day and will be required to follow the rest protocol listed.

4. A day is defined as 8 a.m. to 8 a.m.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

American Legion Baseball adopts the philosophy and principles of the MLB/USA Baseball Pitch Smart initiative of practical, age-appropriate guidelines to educate parents, players and coaches to avoid overuse injuries and foster long, healthy careers for youth pitchers. Learn more online at **pitchsmart.org**.

American Legion Baseball is fully Pitch Smart compliant for the 2026 season.

The following are recommendations and suggested guidelines:

- Consideration should be given to not exceed 100 combined innings pitched in any 12-month period.
- Take at least four months off from competitive pitching every year, including at least two to three continuous months off from all overhead throwing.
- Coaches should consider the pitcher's age and recommended guidelines for that age group (i.e., a 15-year-old pitcher on a senior team should be limited to 95 max pitches, although 105 is allowed).
- Once a pitcher is removed, consideration should be given to what position he is assigned once he is done pitching, as well as the throwing requirement of the fielding position once the pitcher vacates the mound. Make sure to properly warm up before pitching.
- Avoid playing for multiple teams at the same time.
- Avoid playing catcher while not pitching.
- Avoid pitching in multiple games on the same day.
- Make sure to follow guidelines across leagues, tournaments and showcases.
- Monitor for other signs of fatigue.

U. Re-entry Rule. Departments may use the following re-entry rule for their respective department baseball program during regular season play only: "Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-enter once, including a player who was the designated hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may NOT re-enter."

V. Tobacco/e-cigarettes. The use of any form of tobacco/e-cigarettes by a player, coach, manager or umpire while on the playing field, benches, in the bullpen or dugouts is prohibited. Any individual violating this rule will be ejected from the game.

W. 10-Run Rule.

1. During the regular season, the department committee may grant permission to senior teams/leagues to use a 10-run rule for league games and invitational tournaments.

2. During the regular season, the department committee may allow senior teams to play seven-inning or nine-inning games with a 10-run mercy rule after five innings of play or 4½ innings if the home team has the last at-bat.

X. Uniforms. Players and coaches must be in uniforms of the same color and style when competing in regular season department (state) and national tournaments.

1. Any player, coach or manager who does not have an American Legion Baseball emblem on either the left sleeve or left chest of his uniform shirt, wind shirt or jacket will be removed from the game.

2. The front of the uniform shirt may carry lettering that identifies the post, department, town city, community or sponsor that the team represents. Such lettering must be acceptable to the sponsoring department.

3. Approved American Legion Baseball emblem options include patches available through Emblem Sales, sublimation or screen printed onto the uniform shirt.

CLARIFICATION

It is permissible at all levels of American Legion Baseball for coaches and players to wear courtesy jackets (wind shirts or jackets), which must have an American Legion Baseball emblem on either the left sleeve or left chest. Coaches and players not in proper uniform will be restricted to the dugout. Other baseball organizations' emblems or insignia are prohibited to appear on the uniform.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS RULE 2

A. Player Age. Senior American Legion Baseball competition in 2026 is open only to players born on or after Jan. 1, 2007.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

Jan. 1 is the universal cut-off date observed by the U.S. Olympic Committee. The American Legion will observe a Jan. 1 cut-off date. If a player was born in 2006 that player is not eligible for Senior American Legion Baseball. A player born in 2007 or 2008 is not eligible for Junior American Legion Baseball. Players born in 2014 or later are not eligible to play American Legion Baseball.

B. Player's Domicile. A player's legal domicile shall be established before March 31 of the current season.

1. A player's domicile shall be his parent's or permanent court-appointed guardian's permanent and legal domicile.

CLARIFICATION

Temporary guardianship does not apply unless a court having jurisdiction over such matters has determined the parents to be incapable of supervision and care until the player reaches the age of majority (18). Emancipated college or university players are required to play for the team nearest their parent's domicile or the team for which they last played. The American Legion does not allow emancipated players to be "free agents."

POINT OF EMPHASIS

Since 1925, American Legion eligibility has always been tied to the team nearest the parent's domicile or the school the player attends, provided the team complies with all other rules. If he is 18 or older, the player's domicile or emancipation status has no bearing on that

player's eligibility. If a player wishes to play American Legion Baseball, that player and his parents must comply with our domicile rules.

The American Legion recruiting rules do not permit a temporary domicile, post office box or address of a relative, nor do our rules allow temporary guardianship. The American Legion does allow a player, if eligible under all the rules, to try out for the team nearest to the player's parent's legal domicile or the school that player attends.

2. If the parents are divorced by a court order, that player may play for a team of either parent's legal and permanent domicile provided:

   a) The player must declare, in writing, the team of his choice and file that declaration with the department chairman prior to the department closing date. The player's declaration shall be final and valid for the remainder of the player's eligibility.

CLARIFICATION

The enrollment of the school in which a player is enrolled on March 31 shall be counted. The completion of National Form #2 shall be proof of the player's choice. Once a player is deemed qualified and plays for a team under Rule 2.B.2, that player is not eligible to qualify for Rule 4.D (transfer rule). The player's eligibility is tied to that team.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

If a player's parents are legally divorced by a court having jurisdiction over such matters, The American Legion allows that player to choose the team for which he'll play: the team nearest the mother's or father's domicile. Players are not allowed to change teams the following year. The enrollment of the player's school shall be counted. We recommend the player and his coach write a letter of declaration to the state chairman in advance. If a player fails to declare, the address listed in his first year of eligibility will be used as his declaration.

3. In the event that both parents are deceased or incapable of caring for and supervising the player during minority, the player's domicile will be determined by the domicile of the permanent legal

guardian appointed by the courts having jurisdiction to make such an appointment.

4. 2025 Graduated Students: Players who graduated in 2025 shall play for the last American Legion team they played for or for the team nearest his parents' domicile.

5. In situations not covered by the provision of this rule, the department chairman will, with the concurrence of the National Appeals Board, determine the player's legal domicile for the purpose of his participation in the American Legion Baseball program. Such decisions shall be in writing and filed with National Headquarters.

C. Amateur Rule. Only amateurs shall participate as players in American Legion Baseball. To be considered an amateur, players must not:

1. Receive money, favors or gratuities, direct or indirect, for playing baseball.

2. Accept money or favors for reimbursement for time lost at work while playing or for expenses incurred while playing.

3. Participate in an all-star baseball game that is not approved by the authorized department official.

4. Accept, directly or indirectly, money or any favors from anyone for their baseball services, past or present. This also applies to a player's parents, trustees, guardians, etc.

CLARIFICATION

It is important that teams select and register players who will complete their obligation to their American Legion team. Any player who signs a professional contract will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the season and may be replaced on National Form #1 by an eligible player.

5. Try out for any professional team without the written permission of their American Legion Baseball coach.

Note: Departments, districts or posts planning an all-star game should contact their state high school athletic association to ensure that each player's high school eligibility is protected.

D. Proof of Eligibility. The American Legion will accept as proof of age and legal status:

1. Records of birth that are an original or a certified document by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health or other governmental agency authorized to certify birth documents.

   a) Notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital records, baptismal records, school records or certificates are not acceptable proof of age and will disqualify a player and/or the team.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

If the birth certificate is produced and bears a seal of the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or federal government agency, The American Legion will accept that document. A driver's license that meets the federal Real ID law is now acceptable; however, hospital and baptismal records are not acceptable. Players or coaches who need to obtain an official birth certificate should contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics. More information is online at **legion.org/baseball**. Requests for birth certificates should be sent early since many states require four to six weeks to process and provide such documentation. The American Legion requires a government-produced document. The two documents that cause players to be declared ineligible are hospital certificates and photocopies of birth certificates that have been notarized.

2. A state-issued driver's license that complies with the Federal Real ID Law, or a state-issued ID that is also in compliance with the Federal Real ID Law.

3. A U. S. government-issued passport.

4. A U. S. government-issued military ID card or dependent ID card.

5. An American Legion Baseball ID card issued by those departments. The American Legion Baseball ID card shall be purchased from the national office and shall be laminated and recognized by the embossed sportsmanship code on the back of the card.

6. In the case of a foreign birth, a potential player may present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the

U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, such as a NEXUS card. Official birth certificates issued by a foreign country are acceptable when accompanied by a letter with an English translation, and must have an official seal.

7. A court-certified copy of that portion of permanent legal adoption papers showing the place and date of a player's birth shall be acceptable in cases involving adopted players.

8. Other documents as may be reviewed and approved by the national judge advocate.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

The American Legion will accept a document issued by a U. S. government agency or a foreign government-issued birth certificate if that document is an original or has a raised seal or stamp with an English translation. The American Legion will accept documents from any federal government agency.

PLAYER RECRUITING PLAN A RULE 3

Plan A recruiting rules are based on zones and are usually designed for large cities or areas where Plan B (base school recruiting) would be impractical. Plan A rules require a specific area to be drawn on a map. Secondary school enrollments (grades 10, 11 and 12) in that area are then added together and divided by 7,500 (enrollment cap) to determine the number of zones within an area. For example, if there are 17,257 students in a specific area, the number is divided by 7,500, equaling 2.30. This will require a minimum of three zones to be established within that area. Players, including emancipated players whose parents' domiciles are within a zone, must play for the team in that zone unless properly waived to an adjacent zone. All zoning is subject to approval by the National Americanism Commission.

A. Zoning. Zoning of cities, counties and/or school districts may be requested by a team(s).

1. The department baseball committee shall review and approve requests for such zoning. It shall be the responsibility of the

department baseball committee to forward zone maps for final approval to the National Americanism Commission before April 15 of the current season.

2. A detailed street map showing specific boundaries, as well as the locations and enrollment figures of all high schools, must accompany such requests.

3. If a team's boundaries are changed, a new map and letter of explanation must be submitted for approval prior to April 15 of the current season.

B. Player Recruiting. A post may select players whose parent's domicile was established in their zone on or before March 31 of the current season and players whose parents have moved and established a new domicile in their zone after March 31 of the current season.

1. Players not selected to play with the team in their zone may play for the next nearest Plan A team provided they have a written transfer (Form #76) from the team manager in their zone.

   a) The department baseball chairman must approve all transfers prior to listing the player on National Form #1.

2. Players in their final year of eligibility whose parents have established a new domicile shall have the option of playing for their old team or playing for the new team of their parent's new domicile.

   A written request must be filed with, and approved by, the department chairman prior to listing the player on National Form #1. This request must be accompanied by the parent's affidavit stating that the move is permanent and listing the previous and present domicile addresses.

3. In the event a new team is formed and new zones are established that change a player's eligibility, those players previously registered on National Form #1 are permitted a one-time option of playing for the team of their old zone or playing for the team of their new zone.

   a) Zones must be adjacent to each other.

   b) Transfers are permitted when the combined enrollment of each zone is fewer than 7,500.

c) Transfers in the senior program shall be for a single season and shall expire Dec. 31 of the current season.

d) A written request for a transfer must be filed with, and approved by, an authorized baseball official prior to listing the player on National Form #1.

RULE 3 – POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Zoning of cities, counties, school districts or even states is common practice where outside influence such as cross-town busing and open school enrollment make Plan B recruiting rules difficult. The National Americanism Commission suggests that teams wishing to establish Plan A zoning work with the other coaches in their area or league, as well as with department and district baseball committees, to establish fair and equal zones.

Establishing a Plan A zone is not difficult. Below is an example where four zones were formed. The coaches within this league proposed the boundaries or zones. The number of zones or teams were determined by adding the enrollment of all schools, both private and public, in the zone and dividing the total enrollment by 7,500. The team managers then drew four boundaries. The map with agreed-to boundaries must be reviewed by the department baseball committee and the National Baseball Committee. The key to setting up a zone is to add the total enrollment of all schools and divide by 7,500. This establishes the number of zones within the area. Under Plan A, teams DO NOT use a base school but are assigned a specific territory or area from which to recruit players. Territories or zones cannot overlap into another team's territory.

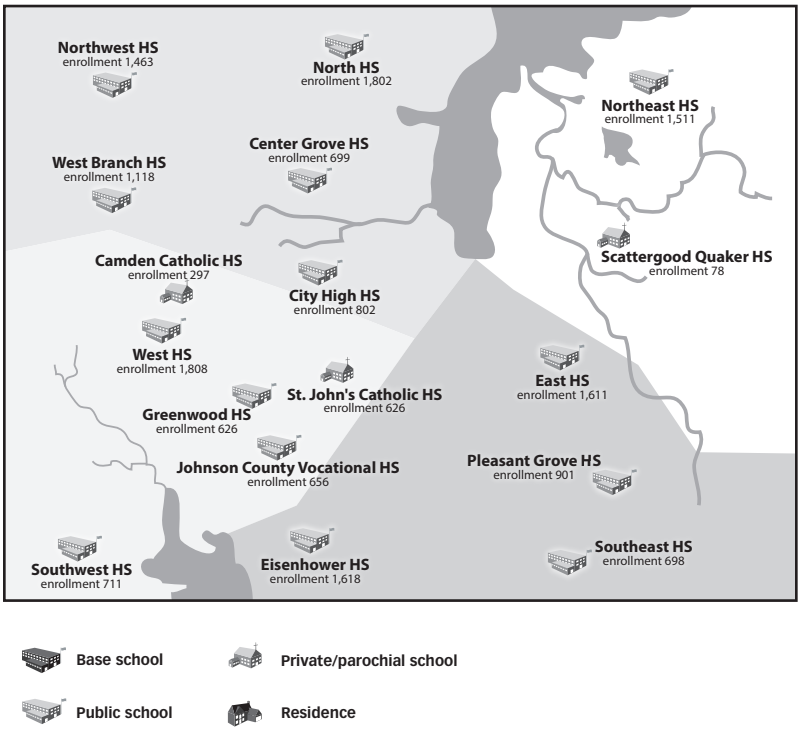
On the Plan A map, the four team managers agree to follow the existing high school boundaries as near as possible. It is not necessary to follow the high school boundary lines, but the practice is strongly recommended.

Teams may only recruit players whose parent's legal domicile is located within the zone. Transfers are permitted only if the combined zone enrollments do not exceed 7,500. The department baseball committee and the National Americanism Commission must approve all new zoning or rezoning by April 15 of that year.

Note: Plan A recruiting and Plan B recruiting are neither compatible

nor interchangeable. The domicile of the parents shall determine if a player is eligible under Plan A or Plan B. For example, if a player lives in a territory that follows Plan B rules but attends a school under Plan A, that player cannot play for the school he attends. Teams under Plan A are only able to recruit players whose parents live within that zone. Since the player does not live within the Plan A zone, he must return home to play if he is eligible under Plan B rules. This is also true for players living in a Plan A zone and attending a school under Plan B jurisdiction. Players who live in a Plan A zone and attend a school outside their zone must return home and play for their "zone" team. The domicile of the parents determines where the player is eligible to play. Waivers or transfers are not permitted between Plan A and Plan B teams. Transfers are only permitted from Plan A to Plan A or Plan B to Plan B teams.

PLAN A MAP



PLAYER RECRUITING PLAN B
RULE 4

Plan B base school recruiting allows American Legion Baseball teams to select players who attend nearby high schools. High schools are combined to form a recruiting area. A player whose parent's domicile is nearest a base school is eligible to try out and play for the team if the player meets all other eligibility requirements and the combined enrollment of the recruiting area (combination of schools) does not exceed 7,500 students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

Note: Plan B recruiting rules are more flexible but more complex than the Plan A (zoning) rules. Study these rules carefully.

A. Base school. All teams must have a base school.

1. New teams must request and receive approval for a base school from the department baseball committee at the time the team registers with the department baseball committee.

2. Existing teams may request to change their base school. This request must be in writing and approved by the department baseball committee prior to submitting National Form #1.

3. If two or more teams are sponsored by the same American Legion post or outside sponsor, the department baseball committee will assign the base school for each team.

B. Player Recruiting. Teams may select players who are enrolled on March 31 of the current season in any public, private, technical, vocational, regional or preparatory high school, or any combination.

1. Existing teams may request a new combination of schools from the department baseball committee; however, approval must be given prior to listing any player on National Form #1.

2. Teams may not recruit a player(s) from another team's base school.

CLARIFICATION

Teams may select non-base school players whose parents' or guardians' domiciles are nearest the team's base school. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps. Teams may select player(s) who qualify under Rule 4.C.

3. Senior American Legion player(s) who qualify under Rule 4.D.
   a) Combined total enrollment of the schools cannot exceed 7,500 for 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

4. Enrollment is determined using the number of 10th, 11th and 12th grade students officially recorded on March 31 of the current season by the state board of education or other state agency that has jurisdiction over school enrollment. Every student registered shall be counted, including special education students, physically challenged students, bilingual students, and students older than 19.

5. When single high school enrollment exceeds 7,500 students, the team that has such a school as its base school shall not recruit from any other school.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

The enrollment of the high school the player attends will be counted. Emancipated players such as college or university students or players no longer in high school must play for the team nearest their parent's or guardian's domicile or for the team they last played. Teams shall count the enrollment of the last high school attended. The school enrollment for middle schools, junior high schools and high school freshmen classes shall not be counted.

C. Option Rule. Players attending a high school (including freshmen) outside a team's recruiting area, may have the option of playing for the team nearest the high school the player attends or playing for the team nearest the parent's legal domicile. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.

1. The player must complete National Declaration Form #77, on which the player declares in writing the team for which he wishes to play.

   a) Such election shall expire on Dec. 31 of the current season.

2. The team manager must forward Form #77 to the department baseball chairman prior to listing the player on National Form #1.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

The enrollment of the high school the player attends will be counted. Emancipated players and players enrolled in college must play for the team for which they played during the 2025 season or for the team nearest his parents' or guardians' domicile.

D. Transfer Rule. A player released from a team must obtain permission on National Transfer Form #76 from that team's manager to play for the team next closest to his parent's domicile.

1. To determine the nearest team from among several, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.

2. The player must provide signed Transfer Form #76 to the new team manager, which must be forwarded to the authorized department baseball official for approval, prior to listing the player on Form #1. All transfers shall be for one year. All transfers shall expire on Dec. 31 of the current season.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

A player who was enrolled in high school on March 31 who tries out for and fails to make the nearest team can request a transfer to the second closest team to their parent's domicile. If cut again, that player may try out for the third closest team until such time as the player is able to play on a team. The enrollment of the high school a player attends on March 31 shall be counted. Transfers shall expire on Dec. 31 of the current season.

3. In the case of a player not placed on the team roster or cut from the team and the team manager/head coach will not release that player, the player may appeal to his department baseball committee

for release approval. The department baseball committee's decision shall be final adjudication without right of appeals.

E. School Enrollment Expansion. Players who are unable to complete eligibility because enrollment expansion eliminated their schools from previously approved combinations may continue on the teams for which they last played, provided no new players are recruited from their school.

1. Written permission for a player to continue under these circumstances must be obtained from the department baseball chairman prior to listing the player on National Form #1.

2. Teams cannot form different combinations of schools.

F. Change of Address. Players who realize a permanent change in their parent's or guardian's domicile shall be eligible to compete for the team nearest their parent's new domicile.

1. A notarized statement from the player's parents must list previous address and new permanent address. Written permission must be obtained from the authorized department baseball official in which the new team is located, prior to listing the player on National Form #1. If released, a player may be transferred to the next nearest team as provided for in Rule 4.D (transfer rule).

G. Final Year of Eligibility. Senior Legion Baseball players who have one year of eligibility remaining, whose parents move out of the team's recruiting area, shall have an option of playing for the team nearest their parent's new domicile or returning to their former team.

1. The enrollment of the high school the player attends on March 31 shall be counted.

2. Written permission to play for their previous team must be obtained from the department baseball chairman prior to listing the player on National Form #1.

H. Homeschooled Players. A player who is homeschooled may compete for the team nearest their parents' or guardian's legal domicile. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.

1. Written permission for such competition must be obtained from the authorized department baseball official prior to listing the player on National Form #1.

2. Enrollment figures for such a player shall be that of the high school boundary of his parent's domicile.

I. New Team Formation. In the event a new American Legion team is formed that is closer to a player's parents' domicile, that player has a one-time option of playing with the team for which he last played or for the new team.

1. The department baseball chairman, prior to listing the player on National Form #1, must grant written permission.

2. The enrollment shall be added to the team's total enrollment.

RULE 4 – POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Selecting a base school is the starting point for recruiting additional players if the team chooses to recruit additional players. The intent of this rule is to ensure each team has a starting point to begin its recruiting and, more importantly, provide a basis on determining player eligibility. Once a team has established a base school, that base school is "locked in," unless special written permission is requested and granted by the department (state) baseball chairman to change base schools. On rare occasions, teams are permitted to share a base school, if the department baseball chairman grants permission. The National Americanism Commission strongly discourages the practice of two or more teams sharing a base school. An American Legion post may sponsor more than one team, and several posts can sponsor a single team.

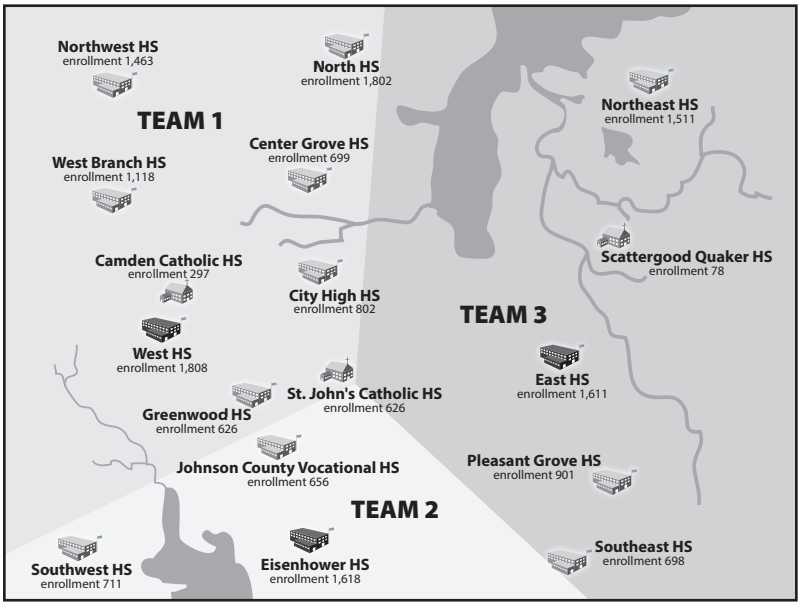
Rule 4.B. – This rule affects every player, and it prioritizes those players that a team can recruit:

1. Players who attend the team's base school.

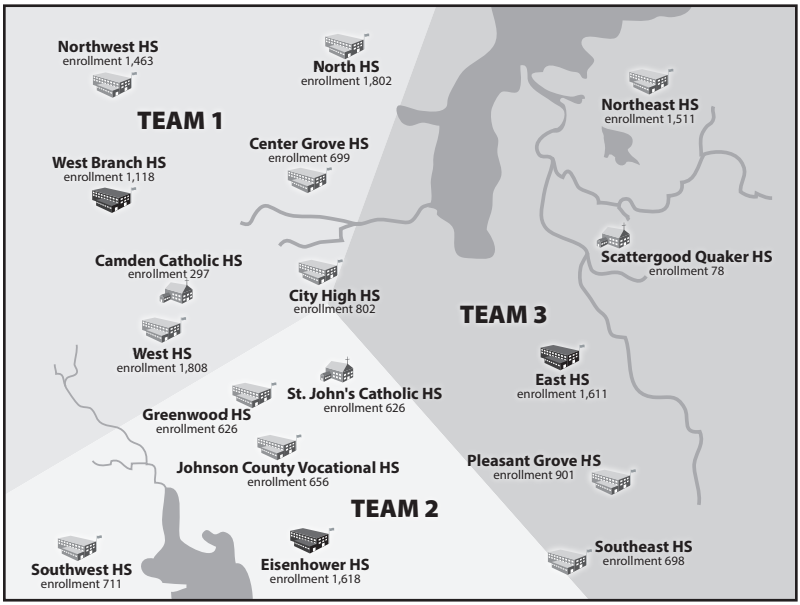
2. Players who attend a nearby school or their parent's domicile is nearest the team's base school.

3. Players who were enrolled in high school on March 31 and who have been cut (released) and transferred to the next nearest team.

PLAN B BASE MAP 1



PLAN B BASE MAP 2



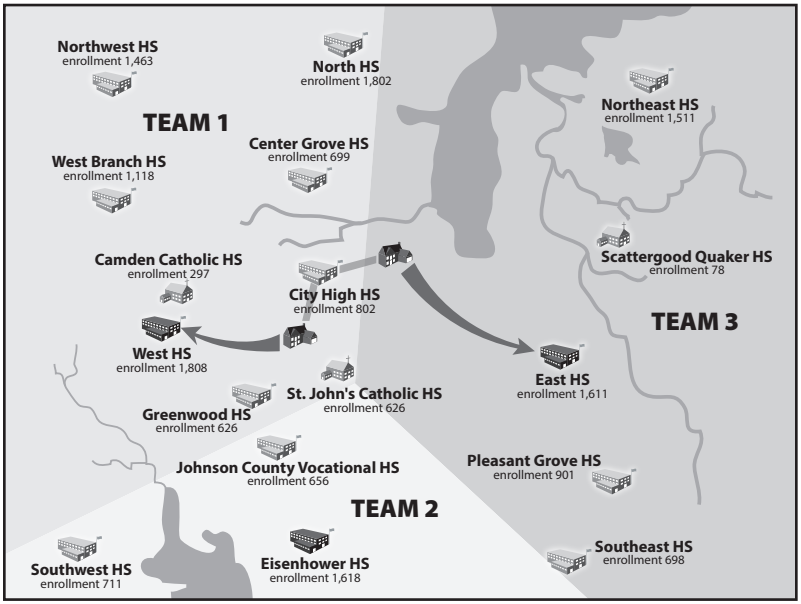
Starting with the base school, team managers may recruit additional players from nearby high schools. Coaches must be aware of their recruiting boundaries. The manager must be aware of other American Legion teams, their base schools and their recruiting areas.

Whenever a team selects a player, the team shall count the enrollment of the high school that player attended on March 31. If college or university players are selected, the team will treat these players as if they were still in high school and count the enrollment of their previous high school. The high school from which they graduated will be listed on National Electronic Form #1 (do not list the college or university).

In the Plan B map, the three American Legion teams have selected a base school. From this starting point, these teams may extend out and recruit additional players, provided the team does not exceed 7,500 in total enrollment of 10th, 11th and 12th grades. Base maps 1 and 2 illustrate different base schools. These maps show the importance of how the selection of a base school can change recruiting boundaries. It is important to remember that teams must request permission from the department (state) baseball committee to change base schools.

As demonstrated, the selection of the base school is critical and must be approved in writing by the department (state) baseball committee.

PLAN B – NON-BASE SCHOOL PLAYERS MAP



SELECTING NON-BASE SCHOOL PLAYERS

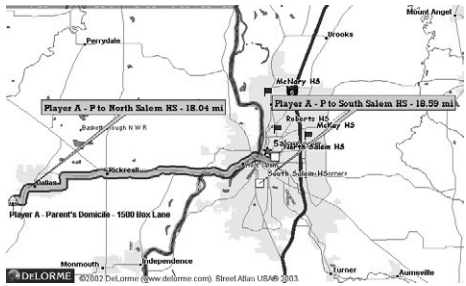
When selecting non-base school players, coaches may recruit players whose parent's domicile is nearest the team's base school. **To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps. The American Legion shall use the shortest driving distance (miles) to determine the closest team. Any dispute over player eligibility shall be determined by the department baseball committee using Google Maps.**

On the recruiting non-base school players map (above), a line is drawn from the player's home to the base schools. Though some players attend the same school, they are required to try out for two different American Legion teams. The best examples are the two players who live in the City HS district. Because there are two nearby base schools, these players will try out for two different teams. Team 1 and Team 3 shall be charged with

the full enrollment of City High HS, which is 802. No partial enrollment or shared enrollment is permitted. Each team shall be charged with the full enrollment. As shown on the recruiting non-base school players map, each team is given an area to select players who are attending nearby schools. To select a player from another team's "area" or base school requires a transfer. If no transfer is granted, those players are ineligible to play.

SAMPLE MAP

In this sample, Player A lives near Dallas. There are two nearby base schools (noted by yellow blocks). Google Maps has determined the nearest team is North Salem HS. North Salem HS is 0.55 miles closer than South Salem HS. The shortest driving distance as determined by Google Maps will determine the nearest team for all non-base school players.



Rule 4.A; 4.B; 4.B.1; 4.B.2; 4.B.3; 4.B.4; 4.B.5 – Rule 4 is the primary guideline for recruiting. We have highlighted some of the important aspects of recruiting players outside the base school.

The following chart is an example of combining schools and changing combinations of schools. Note that the base schools (West HS, Eisenhower HS and East HS) are locked in and can only be changed with written permission from the chairman. Rule 4.A.2 requires the team manager to get written permission from the department baseball chairman prior to recruiting players from a different combination of schools.

2025 TEAM COMBINATIONS

TEAM 1		
West HS (Base School)	5	1,808
Camden Catholic HS	6	297
City High HS	5	802
West Branch HS	1	1,118
Center Grove HS	1	699
Total	***18***	***4,724***
TEAM 2		
Eisenhower HS (Base)	6	1,618
Pleasant Grove HS	6	901
Greenwood HS	4	626
St. John Catholic HS	1	299
Johnson Co. Voc HS	1	656
Total	***18***	***4,100***
TEAM 3		
East HS (Base)	8	1,611
Northeast HS	4	1,511
Center Grove HS	3	699
City High HS	3	802
Total	***18***	***4,623***

2026 TEAM COMBINATIONS

TEAM 1		
West HS (Base School)	11	1,808
Camden Catholic HS	1	297
City High HS	1	802
Greenwood HS*	3	626
St. John Catholic HS*	1	299
Johnson Co. Voc HS*	1	656
Total	***18***	***4,488***
TEAM 2		
Eisenhower HS (Base)	5	1,618
Pleasant Grove HS	3	901
Southeast HS*	5	698
Southwest HS*	5	711
Total	***18***	***3,928***
TEAM 3		
East HS (Base)	11	1,611
City High HS	3	802
Northeast HS	2	1,511
Pleasant Grove HS*	2	901
Total	***18***	***4,825***

*Denotes new school added to different combinations of schools for teams in 2026. Department baseball chairman must approve prior to placing player on National Form #1. Permission is not necessary to drop a school, only to add a new school. The majority of players do not need to be from the base school unless department rules require it.

Plan B allows your team the flexibility to change school combinations to recruit nearby players. Note that teams can only recruit players who attend or live closest their base school. Players who live near another base school's territory are required to try out for the nearest American Legion team. If cut, they may be transferred to the next closest team.

Rule 4.C, 4.C.1, 4.C.1.a, 4.C.1.b – The purpose of this rule is to allow players who attend a high school outside the team's recruiting territory to have an option to return home and play for the team nearest his parent's domicile, or to play for the team nearest the school the player attends. For example, a player attends a private boarding school several states

away. In this situation, The American Legion provides a player an option to play for the American Legion team nearest the school he attends or for the team nearest the parent's domicile. This rule also applies to those players who attend any public or private school located outside their team's recruiting territory. This rule gives those players an option, with an understanding that once a decision is made, the player and the parents are bound by their decision for the 2026 season.

There are two critical issues involved with this rule:

1. The player's school enrollment will be added to the total enrollment.

2. The player must complete a Declaration Form #77 and understand that such election is for the season, provided the player does not change residency or schools.

The map on page 34 demonstrates this rule. Player A lives in the Eisenhower HS boundary (Team 2) but attends Camden Catholic HS. Player A has an option of playing for Team 2 (team nearest his parent's domicile) or Team 1 (team nearest the school he attends). The player must declare that decision on Form #77 and have permission from the department (state) baseball chairman prior to being placed on National Form #1.

The team for which Player A plays shall count the enrollment of the high school (Camden Catholic) the player attends.

Player B lives in the Greenwood HS boundary and also attends Camden Catholic HS. Player B does not have an option to play for Team 2. Since the school he attends and his parent's domicile is within Team 1's recruiting area, Player B must play for Team 1. Player B does not need to complete National Form #77.

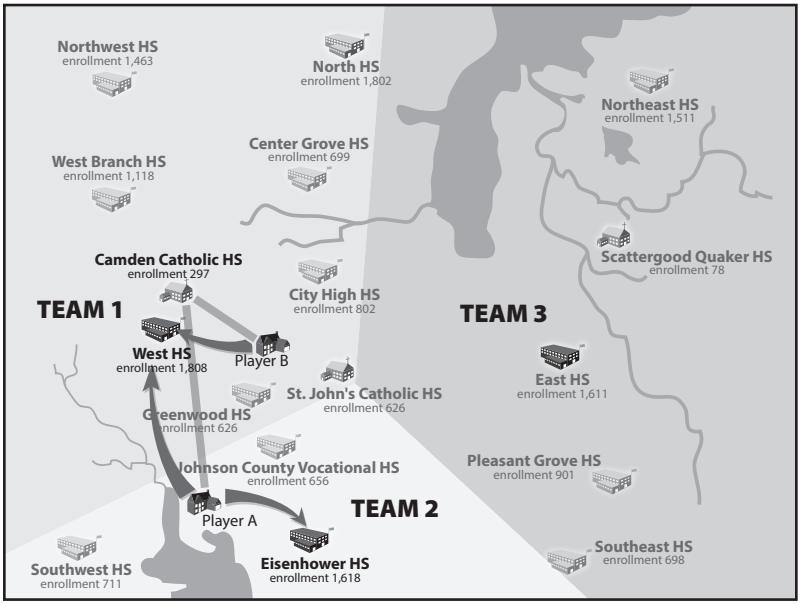
Rule 4.D – Transfer Rule. A player released from a team must obtain permission on National Transfer Form #76 from that team's manager to play for the team next closest to his parent's domicile.

1. To determine the nearest team from among several, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.

2. The player must provide signed Transfer Form #76 to the new team manager, which must be forwarded to the authorized department baseball official for approval, prior to listing the player on Form #1.

All transfers shall be for one year. All transfers shall expire Dec. 31 of the current season.

PLAN B – OPTION RULE MAP



Rule 4.E – School Enrollment Expansion, 4.E.1; 4.E.2 – This rule allows players on last year's roster to finish their American Legion Baseball careers with their team when an increase in school enrollment occurs. Following are critical points in qualifying players under this rule:

1. Only players listed on the previous year's roster can qualify.
2. The team must have the same combination of schools. (If a team changes school combinations, players are no longer qualified under this rule.)
3. No new players can be recruited from the school or schools that are dropped.
4. Prior permission from the department baseball chairman is given.

2025 TEAM

SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT	PLAYERS
East HS (Base)	1,611	5
Northeast HS	1,511	6
City High HS	802	5
Pleasant Grove HS	901	2
Total	***4,825***	***18***

2026 TEAM

SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT	PLAYERS
East HS (Base)	1,611	5
Northeast HS	1,525	6
City High HS	889	6
Pleasant Grove HS	1,000	1
Total	***5,025***	***18***

In the example above, three school enrollments grew in population, causing the team to exceed the 7,500-enrollment cap. Those players who appeared on the roster may continue to play. However, this team must drop a school from its approved combination and inform the department baseball chairman which school it is dropping from its approved combination. The team must seek written permission from the department baseball chairman to utilize those players who did appear on the roster and place an asterisk by those names and attach the letter of approval to National Form #1. No new players can be recruited from the dropped high school. In the example above, the team would probably drop the Pleasant Grove HS and "grandfather" the single player since Team 3 recruits several players from the other schools.

Rule 4.F – Change of Address Rule, 4.F.1, 4.F.2 – This rule allows a player whose parents have moved and established a new permanent domicile to play for the nearest team. Enrollment of the school that player attended on March 31 shall be counted. The intent is clear: if the parents move and establish a new permanent domicile, the player is permitted to play for the team from the new location. The player's eligibility is tied to his parent's domicile, not to the player's domicile, as is the case with many college and university players. Department baseball

officials have been advised that temporary leases, short-term rentals and post office boxes are not permanent domiciles. Department baseball chairmen can request additional evidence as proof of this permanent change of domicile. Teams must seek permission from the department baseball chairman prior to placing the player on National Form #1.

Rule 4.G – Final Year of Eligibility, 4.G.1, 4.G.2 – Senior American Legion Baseball players who have one year of eligibility remaining, whose parents move out of the team's recruiting area, shall have an option of playing for the team nearest their parent's new domicile or returning to their former team. This rule shall not apply to Junior American Legion Baseball teams.

1. The enrollment of the high school the player attends on March 31 of the current season shall be counted.

2. Written permission to play for their previous team must be obtained from the department baseball chairman prior to listing the player on National Form #1.

Rule 4.H – Homeschool Player – Rule 4.H provides explanation as to enrollment that will be counted for homeschooled players. To ensure parity in the program, The American Legion requires the team to count the enrollment of the nearest public school. For example, Player C is homeschooled and wishes to play American Legion Baseball. Player C lives in the Northeast HS boundary. Team 3 will count the Northeast HS enrollment as well as the base school enrollment (East HS).

Rule 4.I – New Team Formation – Rule 4.I provides instructions when a new team is formed and a player's eligibility changes. For example, if a fourth team is started in the area and that team selects North HS as its base school, any player, whose domicile is closer to North HS shall be eligible to try out for Team 4. If a player is listed on the previous team, this rule permits those players a one-time option of deciding to try out for Team 4 or to continue their eligibility with previous team. The player needs to send a letter to the department baseball chairman informing the chairman of his final decision. This rule does not apply to existing teams that change their base school and only applies to players registered on 2025 existing teams.

Questions concerning any rule interpretations are to be directed either by the team manager or the head coach to the department baseball chairman.

PROTESTS RULE 5

A. Protest Procedures. All department baseball committees shall, in their rules, define procedures for filing protests. This rule will specify how protests are to be filed, time limits, fees (if any), and with whom protests are to be filed.

B. Written Proof. All protests of player eligibility must be specific, with written proof. All protests shall be filed with the department in accordance with department baseball rules. All protests must indicate the specific rule that is alleged to have been violated.

C. Forfeitures. If a player is ruled ineligible, he shall be disqualified immediately and all games in which the disqualified player participated shall be forfeited.

D. Game Protest. Protests of Official Baseball Rules during actual game conditions must be filed with the umpire-in-chief before the next legal pitch.

E. Appeals to National Headquarters. All protests involving player eligibility and filed with the National Appeals Board must be sent via the department chairman. (See Rule 10.)

TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION RULE 6

A. Player and Team Registration. American Legion Baseball teams must register with their department baseball committee online at **baseball.legion.org**. All teams shall register online between Jan. 1 and May 15. Any team that fails to register by May 15 may pay an additional $200 to the department. Any team that fails to register team application, purchase insurance and pay registration fees by June 1 shall not be eligible to participate in post season tournaments.

B. National Online Registration. American Legion Baseball players must enroll on the Player Roster of Eligibility via **baseball.legion.org**. This form must be completely filled out to include each player's full name and the address of their parents' permanent legal domicile.

C. National Form #2. All players, their parents or court-approved legal guardians must complete Player Agreement and Parent's Consent

Form #2. The team manager will retain the original Form #2 and have it available at all games. The copy must be filed with the department baseball chairman. Any team or player who fails to complete and file Form #2 shall be disqualified from any further play.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

American Legion Baseball will continue to utilize the online registration program. Team managers shall register their teams via the online registration program. The team must be approved by the department. All players wishing to play American Legion Baseball must complete National Form #2. That form must be signed by the player and a parent. It must be fully completed, and filed with the department by the registration deadline as established by the department.

D. Dual Participation. American Legion Baseball players or teams may participate in other amateur baseball programs during the regular season; however, the team manager and player **must obtain written approval** from the department baseball chairman prior to participating in the event and/or tournament. The use of National Form #6 is strongly recommended and is available online at **baseball.legion.org**.

CLARIFICATION

Players who miss any part of a department post-season tournament due to non-baseball related matters may be granted an exception on a case-by-case basis, with proper documentation. Prior written approval from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman is required.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Dual participation shall no way interfere with a player's responsibility to his American Legion Baseball team. Once state tournament play has completely concluded and should there be open dates prior to team travel (August 3) to national regional tournaments, a player(s) may be granted permission to dual participate from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman. Any player

participating in another sanctioned baseball game/tournament during the American Legion post-season tournament dates shall be ineligible from further post-season tournament play. CLARIFICATION – Players attending military assignment, MLB-sanctioned invitation-only events, player combine/evaluation of extended drills and/or game-like scenarios events, or college of enrollment orientation workouts may be granted an exception on a case-by-case basis with proper documentation Prior written approval from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman is required.

E. Players Per Team. No American Legion Baseball team may have more than 18 registered players once National Form #1 is registered with the department. Each team must register players on National Form #1 via online registration with their department by June 25 or the department closing date, whichever comes first. The department baseball chairman must certify teams to National Headquarters by June 30 to be eligible for national competition. A non-Legionnaire may serve as coach.

1. For those American Legion Baseball programs that have affiliated senior and junior teams, junior eligible players may participate on both teams during the regular season. However, senior eligible players may not participate on a junior team. Those eligible junior players may appear in an affiliated senior team game provided the total number of players in such senior game does not exceed 18 players.

2. In cases of death, a player may be replaced on National Form #1.

3. A player may be replaced if that player is placed on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces following submission of the certified National Form #1.

4. In cases of season-ending injury, a player may be replaced on National Form #1 **prior to the end of regular season play** with department baseball chairman approval and with proper supporting medical doctor's note and documents.

   Note: American Legion Baseball insurance provides coverage for all players who try out, practice or play in exhibition games.

However, once the regular season has begun, only those players listed on the national electronic roster shall be covered.

5. Any player who signs a professional contract will be declared ineligible for the remainder of the season and may be replaced on National Form #1 by an eligible player.

F. Non-American Legion Post Sponsorship. Non-American Legion (outside) sponsorship is permissible, subject to the approval and supervision of the department baseball committee and as long as the American Legion Baseball definition of "sponsorship" is followed.

SPORTSMANSHIP & CONDUCT RULE 7

A. Conduct. Managers, coaches or players who, in the opinion of the department chairman or his representative, conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner that would discredit this program may be removed by the department baseball committee. The department baseball committee's decision will be final.

B. Heckling. No player, coach, manager or other party associated with an American Legion Baseball team shall abuse, heckle or make uncomplimentary remarks to opposing players, team officials or umpires. The umpire shall immediately eject from the game any individuals violating this regulation.

C. Sportsmanship. Any player, coach, manager or other party accompanying a team will be ejected from the game from the time of the infraction if they:

1. Use profane language.

2. Throw bats or other equipment.

3. Make unnecessary or obscene gestures to umpires, fans or opposing players.

4. Commit unnecessary roughness on the playing field.

D. Reinstatement. Any player, coach or manager suspended from a game in tournament play by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct

is suspended for the remainder of the tournament unless reinstated by the tournament director. The tournament director's decision is final.

E. Ejection from the Ballpark. Any player, coach, manager or other party accompanying a team ejected by an umpire must leave the ballpark.

DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION
RULE 8

A. Department Policies and Regulations. It is the duty of the department (state) baseball committee to formulate rules and regulations that are not in conflict with national rules.

1. Department recruiting policies may be more restrictive than national rules.

2. Department policies will include procedure for protests. (The protection and stimulation of competition must be used in setting these regulations.)

3. A copy of the department policies and regulations must be filed with National Headquarters before April 15, 2026. Departments are encouraged to email a copy of their policies and regulations to **baseball@legion.org**.

B. Department Rulings. The department baseball committee shall decide all questions, disputes and protests within a department. The department baseball committee shall have the authority to disqualify or suspend anyone violating a department policy or national rule.

C. National Player Eligibility Rule Interpretations. The National Americanism Division shall make interpretations of national rules.

1. All requests for interpretations must be in writing and routed through the appropriate department baseball chairman or department adjutant. Telegrams, email and fax copies are considered written requests. Failure to follow this procedure may result in suspensions and/or forfeiture of fees.

SENIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS RULE 9

A. National Tournament Registration. The department championship team must be certified to the Americanism Commission by the authorized department baseball official no later than 11:59 p.m. July 30, 2026, if the department is going to utilize National Headquarters' transportation arrangements to the regional site.

Note: National Headquarters will only be financially responsible for a maximum of 18 players and two adults included on National Form #1.

B. National Competition. Tournament competition is open only to American Legion teams that have registered with the department baseball committee online at **legion.org/baseball**. The department baseball committee is responsible for approving the team's national online registration.

C. National Tournament Supervision. All national tournaments will be played under the supervision of the National Americanism Commission. All disputes and questions shall be referred to the national tournament director. Any situation not specifically covered by national rules or regulations will be referred to the National Americanism Division, whose decision shall be final.

D. National Tournament Player Eligibility Protest. Eligibility protests of players involved in national tournaments must bear written proof of ineligibility and must be filed with the department or national tournament director at each such tournament no later than 9 a.m. local time on the first day of the tournament involved, except upon discovery of a rules violation. When a rules violation is discovered, the eligibility protest and a written description of the alleged violation must be filed immediately and if a rules violation was committed, the player shall be ineligible and the team manager shall be suspended until further notice. All other protests shall be filed as specified in the Official Baseball Rules.

E. ALB Risk Management Policy. Per NEC Resolution No. 17 October 2023, all adult participants (coaches, managers, volunteers and players, 18 years of age or older) are required by Public Law 115-126, "Protecting Young Victims From Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017" to have adult abuse awareness training

and background checks to be eligible to participate in national tournaments hosted by The American Legion.

F. National Tournament Play. Teams competing in national tournaments (with the exception of the American Legion World Series) will play every day.

1. All state, regional and World Series games are seven (7) innings. 10-run mercey rule after five innings of play or 4 1/2 innings if the home team has the last at-bat.

2. The national tournament director has complete instructions concerning double-elimination.

3. Tie-breaker rules can be found in the national tournament rules and policies.

4. No national tournament games will begin after 11 p.m. local time.

G. Regional Tournament Host. No regional host team shall be denied the opportunity of participating in department tournaments leading up to the regional tournament. Nor shall any team hosting a department or national regional tournament refuse to participate in any such tournament.

POINT OF EMPHASIS

The host team for a department or national regional tournament is mandated to participate in the district and/or state tournament until such time as the team is eliminated from competition. Host teams will not be permitted to rest their team to avoid creating an unfair advantage at either a department or national regional tournament.

H. Tournament Photographs. Each department baseball championship team is required to furnish National Headquarters and the local regional tournament chairman a high-quality glossy (color) photograph via **baseball@legion.org**.

I. Department Championship Play. Department championship tournaments will comply with national tournament rules and policies outlined in National Rule 9 and American Legion Baseball Tournament Policies adopted by the National Americanism

Commission. No department may enter a team in a national regional tournament without first conducting an official department tournament that had two or more certified teams participating.

J. Artificial Noisemakers Prohibited. The National Americanism Commission has an established policy that prohibits artificial noisemakers at all times. Fans who operate artificial noisemakers will be asked not to do so. A second warning will result in those fans being removed from the stands.

K. Suspended Games. Suspended games will be completed from the point of suspension.

1. A suspended game completed on the following day will not count toward two games in Rule 1.M. These teams can still play an additional two full games.

2. Pitch count rule 1.T applies to suspended games.

CLARIFICATION

At all national regional and World Series tournaments, any game suspended by the on-site tournament director will become a suspended game and will be completed from the point of suspension.

L. Minimum Active Players. Teams competing in American Legion Baseball senior national tournaments (including state tournaments) must have nine players available for participation at a national tournament at all times. Senior teams that have fewer players available from their approved roster strength are permitted to bring up players registered on their affiliated Junior American Legion Baseball team roster to the senior team to approved roster strength, not to exceed a total of 18 players. CLARIFICATION – If the senior team's approved roster strength is 16 players, the team is allowed to transfer only enough junior players to a roster strength of 16 players. Any players transferred from junior team to senior team must be approved and certified by the department baseball chairman. The junior roster must be registered and approved with the national office by June 30. Any senior team that does not have nine players will forfeit its right to participate, and the National Americanism Division – in consultation with the department baseball chairman – shall determine a suitable replacement team.

M. Between Inning Time Limit. Between innings, teams have 120 seconds (or 150 seconds for a relief pitcher) to be ready for the first pitch (pitcher holding the ball and touching the pitcher's plate and a batter standing in the batter's box ready to hit). The 120-second clock (or 150-second clock for a relief pitcher) shall start when all defensive players have started to leave their positions after the last out has been made and stops when the umpire calls "Play" for the first pitch of the first batter of the next half-inning. 3rd base umpire will use stop-watch if clock is not available. If there are unusual circumstances that prevent either team from getting on or off the field, common-sense delays such as ceremonies or field maintenance not the fault of the teams, or an injury, the time clock is delayed until players have had an opportunity to begin to move to their positions. If the offensive team is not ready within the 120-second or 150-second clock, the umpire shall call a strike. If the defense is not ready, a ball shall be awarded to the first batter.

NATIONAL BASEBALL APPEALS BOARD RULE 10

A. National Appeals Board. There is a National Baseball Appeals Board (hereafter referred to as "the Board") composed of (1) the chairman of the National Americanism Commission, (2) the chairman of the Baseball Committee, and (3) a third member appointed by the chairman of the National Americanism Commission. The chairman shall also appoint two alternate members. The term of office for board members and alternate members shall be one year.

B. Time Limit. An appeal filed under this rule must be made within 24 hours of the time when the rule interpretation of the National Americanism Division is issued. Such appeal may be made by telegram, fax, email or mail-a-gram and shall state the precise points of contention that are the basis for the appeal. If an appeal is not filed within 24 hours to the National Americanism Division, an interpretation will not be considered.

C. Filing an Appeal. All appeals must be in writing and addressed to The American Legion, National Baseball Appeals Board, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. Faxes and emails are acceptable when sent by the department baseball chairman or

department adjutant. The National Headquarters fax number is **(317) 630-1369**, and the program's email address is **baseball@legion.org**.

D. Final Authority. The Board shall have sole jurisdiction over any appeal filed following a decision involving American Legion Baseball rule interpretations rendered by the National Americanism Division. Parties agree the final interpretation of national and department American Legion Baseball rules and regulations shall be determined by the National Baseball Appeals Board and their ruling shall be final without any rights of appeals. The concurrence of a majority of the members of the Board shall constitute the ruling by the Board. In addition, the Board's ruling shall be considered that of an arbitrator to which the parties agree is a final adjudication of all matters in controversy.

E. Approved Interpretations. During tournaments supervised by National Headquarters, the Board shall approve interpretations rendered by the National Americanism Division before publication of the interpretation.

F. Appeal Procedure. No appeal shall be considered by the Board until all established appeal procedures within the respective department's rules have been exhausted, as certified in writing by the department baseball chairman.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL DEFINITIONS

AFFILIATED TEAM: Affiliated senior and junior teams must share the same base school and high school enrollment combination.

BASE SCHOOL: A public or private high school that will serve as the starting point to recruit players, if eligible. When a player's parent's domicile is located within a base school boundary, that base school is considered the nearest team.

CERTIFIED BIRTH RECORD: A document issued by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, or other authorized state or federal government office, that lists the player's date and place of birth. This document usually has a raised state seal and there is usually a fee to obtain a copy.

CLARIFICATION

- A state-issued ID or a state-issued driver's license that is in compliance with the Federal Real ID law is acceptable.
- A U.S. passport (or any U.S. government issued documentation) qualifies as an acceptable record of birth.
- Notarized birth certificates or hospital certificates are not acceptable proof of age for American Legion Baseball.

CERTIFICATION: A written document or act validating what has or has not been done. Certifying a department champion or runner-up does not qualify a team for national competition if an ineligible player is discovered. When certifying the department champion or runner-up, the authorized department official is attesting to the fact a department tournament was held in accordance with national and department baseball rules. An authorized baseball official, in certifying a team entry form, is attesting to the fact that the National Form #1 was registered with the chairman on or before the date required by the department rules. This does not guarantee that the team is eligible for league or tournament play.

COMBINED TOTAL ENROLLMENT: The entire enrollment on March 31 of the current season of all students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades of those schools from which players are recruited for one team. This

includes all male, female, special education, physically challenged and bilingual students enrolled on March 31 of the current season.

COUNTY: A subdivision of the district. County chairmen may prescribe rules if approved by the department baseball committee.

DEPARTMENT BASEBALL OFFICIAL: A volunteer appointed or elected to oversee and supervise the department baseball program within a given department.

DEPARTMENT CLOSING DATE: A specific date by which a team must have its online roster and other documentation registered with the proper department baseball official. The date is determined by the department baseball committee and published in the department rule book. This date must be set prior to any league game. Insurance coverage is only afforded to those players listed on the roster once regular season games begin.

DEPARTMENT: The American Legion is a nonprofit veterans organization with 55 departments or subdivisions (one in each state, plus Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, the Philippines and the District of Columbia). Each department is an independently operated subdivision of The American Legion, with its own constitution and bylaws.

DISTRICT: A subdivision of the department. Several districts make up the department.

DISTRICT BASEBALL CHAIRMAN: An individual appointed or elected to oversee and supervise the district baseball program, under the general rules and regulations of the department baseball committee. District chairmen may prescribe rules if approved by the department baseball committee.

DIVISION OR ZONE CHAIRMAN: A subdivision, as authorized by the department constitution and bylaws. As noted earlier, individual Legionnaires may be authorized as a volunteer agent of the department organization to help administer the baseball program in their area. Division or zone chairmen may prescribe rules if approved by the department baseball committee.

LEGAL PERMANENT DOMICILE: A player's legal domicile shall be the same domicile of his parents or permanent court appointed guardian's domicile. This definition means living in a particular locality

with intent to make it a fixed and permanent home. A post office box does not qualify as a domicile.

NOTARIZED DOCUMENTS: Adoption papers, divorce or legal separation papers, if notarized, are acceptable documents for determining a player's domicile as of March 31, 2026.

PERMANENT COURT-APPOINTED GUARDIAN: An individual appointed by a court for a minor, due to the loss of or incapacity of the natural parents and until attainment of full age. Temporary guardianship is not acceptable in American Legion Baseball, unless the courts have determined the parents incapable of supervision and care of the minor, or parents are deceased.

REGISTERED TEAM: Any team that has properly filed the necessary documents and purchased the proper liability and medical insurance as required by the national and department rules.

SPONSORSHIP: The American Legion post is always recognized as the primary and exclusive sponsor, regardless of financial support of the team. A support group, booster club, company, private association or corporation is recognized as a financial supporter for a local ALB team. Those teams that do not have a post sponsorship shall come under the sponsorship of the department or district baseball committee having jurisdiction over team discipline. An outside supporter or co-sponsor has no legal jurisdiction over a team. The American Legion post or department baseball committee that sponsors any team retains the exclusive legal sponsorship of the team.

TECHNICAL OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL: A tax-supported institution for secondary education.

TOTAL ENROLLMENT: The entire enrollment of one high school of all students in 10th, 11th and 12th grades. This includes all male, female, special education, physically challenged and bilingual students enrolled on March 31, 2026.

TRANSFER: A written document that provides a means of transferring a player from one team to another. Transfers require tryout and release by the team manager or American Legion post commander in consultation with the team manager.

CLARIFICATION

Players who qualify under Rule 2.B.2. (divorced parent's rule) and Rule 4.C. (option rule) are not eligible for transfer (Form #76) once they have competed with an American Legion team, unless that team fails to exist or if either parent has a new permanent change of address.

ZONE: A specific territory determined on a map, by the authorized department baseball official, for recruiting players under Plan A.

NOTES

NOTES

American Legion Baseball

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