AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

STATE OF WASHINGTON STANDARD RULES FOR 2017 BASEBALL SEASON



WASHINGTON STATE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Washington State American Legion Baseball is divided up into 4 Areas (see map below). Each area is managed by a Senior Commissioner who has additional Commissioners who help him manage the Area. The west, east, north and south parts of the state are different in demographics and geography and sometime what works on the west side of the state may not work on the east side of the state. When reviewing the following Standard Operating Procedures; be aware that the Senior Commissioner for your area may issue an addendum to this document that may add or to a State or National rule.



The job of the Senior Commissioner is to manage all aspects of his area and to assist new and existing teams with preparing to legally compete in an upcoming baseball season. All questions concerning an area should be addressed to the Senior Commissioner in-charge or one of his District Commissioners and not the State Chairman or National Headquarters. The following is important information and our Standard Operating Procedures for the upcoming baseball season. If at any time you are confused you should consult your area Commissioners for clarification.

Within the State of Washington there are 3 Divisions of baseball teams. Our Junior "A" Division is usually reserved for players in the 13-15 age brackets. Our Junior "AA" Division is usually reserved for the 16-17 age brackets and Our Senior "AAA" Division is usually reserved for the 18-19 age brackets. There are certain provisions that allow players to play up or down in a Division outside of their age bracket. With over 150 teams in the State of Washington there are plenty of opportunities to schedule games within any Division.

On the following pages you will find information on team paperwork requirements, purchasing insurance, recruiting players, dual participation rules, equipment requirements, scheduling games, online scoring, and the overall commitment players, coaches and teams make when playing Washington State American Legion Baseball.

2017 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- 1. Your Area Senior Commissioner will inform you of the following important dates and paperwork you must comply with in order to play American Legion Baseball in your area of the state for the 2017 season.
 - a. The Deadline Date for <u>declaring a team</u> for the 2017 Season. A, AA or AAA. Dates may or may not be different for each area or division.
 - b. The Deadline Date and a list of <u>all team and player paperwork required</u> in order to be eligible to play and/or to be eligible for post season play.
 - c. A list of all <u>required and not required meetings</u> of team managers for discussions, scheduling, league structure, playoff formats and to review any necessary paperwork.
 - d. The Deadline Date for <u>the purchase of your team 2 insurance policies</u> from S.A. Van Dyke insurance company. (Liability and Medical)
 - e. The Deadline Date for you to register your team on the State Website.
 - f. The Deadline Date for you to register your team on the National Website.
 - g. The Deadline Date for payment of all league fees.
 - h. The Deadline for <u>new players who need ID cards</u> to register on the State Website.

THE WASHINGTON STATE AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAM IS CONTROLLED BY THE WASHINGTON STATE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMISSION. WE ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL PROGRAM AND THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY TO ANY TEAM PLAYING AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

- 1 The rules of Major League Baseball. (see National ALB Rule book for exceptions)
- 2 The current (2017) rule book published by the **National Headquarters of American Legion** Baseball.
- 3 The current **Standard Operating Procedures** published by the Washington State American Legion Baseball Commission and any addendums from your local Area.

The National Headquarters of the American Legion allows a state to be more restrictive in the establishment of state rules. For example a state could say 19 year old players can't play American Legion Baseball. The reverse logic also applies; a state can't say 20 year old players can play American Legion Baseball; that would be weakening a National Rule. The majority of state rule restrictions come from input of team managers and coaches throughout the state. The Washington State Baseball Commission takes pride in listening to team managers, coaches, players, parents, umpires and volunteers. We view our program as a partnership with our teams and local communities and for all who strive to make a positive impact in the lives of our youth in Washington State.

Here are our Statewide Standard Operating Procedures for 2017.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP's)

(Your Area Addendums will be attached to this document)

- 1) TEAMS COMMITTING AFTER YOUR AREAS DEADLINE DATE WILL BE CONSIDERED AN EXHIBITION TEAM AND WILL NOT QUALIFY FOR POST-SEASON PLAY UNLESS APPROVED BY THEIR SENIOR COMMISSIONER.
- 2) Teams that do not comply with registration and paperwork procedures will become exhibition teams should they decide to register. Exhibition teams do not qualify for post-season tournaments.
- 3) **NEW TEAMS:** A "new team" is defined as:
 - * A team that did not play as an American Legion Baseball team the previous season.
 - * A team that played in American Legion Baseball the previous season but has a new coach and has no than 3 returning players from the previous season's roster.
- 4) PAPERWORK & STATE LEAGUE FEES: Teams that have not submitted all "ERRORLESS" paperwork and team registration fees and purchase required insurance policies by applicable due dates, will not be eligible for league, or post-season play.
- 5) NOTEBOOKS: Team notebooks will be brought to all league and non-league games including a copy of these state SOP's to include all Area Addendums. There is a \$5 replacement fee for any missing player ID card. Team Managers be aware that in your team notebooks are the forms for the consent for medical treatment of your players so therefore you should always have it with you for all practices and games.
- **6) INSURANCE RULE:** Prior to the first practice or game, every American Legion Baseball team must purchase both liability and accident insurance policies "online" from the American Legion's agent of record (S.A. Van Dyk, Inc.) no later than May 15th via ALB's national website. Consult your local Area Commissioner for any date changes to this rule for your area.
- 7) BACKGROUND CHECKS: All team managers and coaches are required to complete the background check process established by the National Headquarters of American Legion Baseball. The application is available on the Washington State American Legion Baseball website. www.wastatealb.com
- 8) SCHEDULES: Team Managers are required to enter their teams "league home games" into our online scoring program prior to the season which tracks schedules, scoreboard and league standings. The deadline is established by your Area Senior Commissioner. Managers are also required to update chances to game schedules during the season for changes such as rainouts.
- 9) LEAGUE SCHEDULE DEADLINE: No league schedule changes may be made after June 15th, except for rain, umpire shortage, or severe emergencies, with approval of the Area Senior Commissioner. Therefore please do your best not to back-end your league games and summer tournament games.
- 10) LEAGUE GAMES: A team must complete the league schedule with less than 2 forfeits to be a contender for postseason play. If you have 2 forfeits in league play, you will be disqualified from any post-season play. Forfeiting a doubleheader will only count as 1 forfeited game, but 2 losses in the league standings if both are league games. Teams that do not finish their League or Postseason schedules must file an appeal with the Area Senior Commissioner within 60 days following the end of the regular season. If the decision by the Area Senior Commissioner is to suspend the team for the following year, then an appeal can be made to the State Chairman, along with a \$50 fee. The State Chairman's decision can only be appealed to the Washington State Baseball Commission that meets ever fall to discuss baseball matters and plan for the next year's season.

- **11) FAILURE TO APPEAR:** If a team fails to appear once the game has been confirmed, then a forfeit loss (7-0) will be given to the team that failed to appear. If a visiting team fails to appear and umpires are compensated the team failing to appear will reimburse the home team for that expense.
- **12) GAME CANCELLATION:** In case of rain, umpire shortage, or severe emergency, you need to notify the other team's head coach at least 4 hours prior to game time. Coaches should be in contact with each other in case of bad weather, poor field conditions, postponements, etc. throughout the day.
- **13) FORFEITURES:** Other than emergencies, umpire shortage, or rainouts, any league "dates" cancelled less than 24 hours of game time will be considered a forfeit by the canceling team.
- 14) RESCHEDULED & TIED GAMES: If a league "date" needs to be re-scheduled, the coach calling for the re-schedule is responsible to make arrangements for the make-up game with-in 24 hours of re-scheduling. Responsible coach must make the change on our online scoring system within 24 hours. Be sure to notify the umpire associations (or assigned person). Re-scheduled "dates" not made up prior to the last legal day of league competition will be considered a half game forfeit by both teams. All completed games ending in a tie must be played out prior to season's end or a tie will be given to both teams.
- **15) CANCELLED LEAGUE DATES/GAMES:** Games cancelled due to rain, umpires, or emergencies must be made up at the next available date. If rain/umpire shortage/emergency games cannot be re-scheduled prior to the Divisional Tournament then both teams will receive a half game forfeit.

16) RAINOUT POLICY

- If a game has reached the required number of innings played (either 4 ½ or 5), and is halted because of rain and not resumed, it will be declared a completed game.
- If it begins raining after 5 innings or more have been completed and the game is rained out, it would revert back to the last completed full inning.
- If a game is rained out before the required number of innings are played (either 4 ½ or 5), it will be considered a suspended contest. When play is resumed, an attempt will be made to play the game to completion (7 innings) or at least get past the completed game mark (either 4 ½ or 5 innings) if poor weather again that day.
- SUSPENDED CONTEST In ALB Season/Post Season Tournament play, any contest called by the umpire before it can be considered a regulation game according to NFHS rules shall be a suspended contest and will be continued at a later time as follows: a) The contest shall continue from the point of suspension at a later time. b) The lineup, innings pitched and batting order of each team will remain exactly the same as when All ALB pitcher limitation rules apply. In case of suspended game, it will not constitute an additional appearance by the same pitcher(s) that pitched in the game, prior to being suspended
- **17) MAKE-UP DATES:** League games must be made up on the first available date after the rainout. League games have priority over non-league games. Edit league game schedule on our online scoring system within 24 hours.
- **18) TIEBREAKER CRITERIA:** If two or more teams are tied at the end of the regular season, teams will be seeded for post-season play according to (this is used for teams tied for the pigtail game too, but A and C will not be used due to teams not playing each other during the season):
 - a. Head to head competition. (If it a 3 way tie as soon as one team as a team is declared a winner or is eliminated, the remaining teams begin the process from the beginning again to break the tie.)
 - b. League game results versus team #1, #2, #3, #4 etc. Example If tied for 2nd then you compare the records against the 1st place team in your league, if still tied then you compare against the 4th place team and so on.
 - c. Runs allowed in league play between the tied teams.
 - d. Runs allowed in league play versus team #1, #2, #3, #4, etc.

- e. If above criteria does not break a tie, then a play-in game will be played unless no team is eliminated then a coin flip will decide the seeding.
- f. The play-in game(s) will be held the day following the last day of league play.
- g. If at all possible the play-in game(s) will be played at a neutral site with a coin flip deciding the home team and the third base dugout.
- **19) ONLINE GAME SCORES:** Home team coach will enter the score for all home league games onto our online scoring system within 24 hours of the completion of the game.
- **20) GAME BASEBALLS:** Please insure that you do not mix the different brands and types of baseballs during league and tournament play. Consult your local Senior Commissioner or area addendum for any required baseballs for league and post season games.
- 21) UMPIRES: Teams must use a legally organized umpire's association for all league games.
- **22) ALL PROTESTS:** Protest will have a \$50 applicable fee and evidence accompanying protest within 24 hours. Appeals/Protests must also be written and submitted to the Area Senior Commissioner within 24 hours of the initial protest. Further appeals are available at the state or national levels for certain appeals/protests.
- **23) RUN MERCY RULE:** The ten run rule will apply to league, divisional, and state tournament games; 4 ½-5 innings in a seven inning game or after 6 ½-7 innings in a 9 inning game.
- **24) PITCHER WARM-UP:** Pitchers may warm-up between innings, for all Divisions A, AA and AAA. Home plate & bullpen catchers/coaches must wear protective mask while warming-up pitchers in the squatted position.

25) INNINGS PLAYED:

- **Junior Legion:** All games are 7 innings. The "AA" State Championship game is 7 innings with no ten run rule used in the final Championship game. Review the final State playoff bracket for Post Season information.
- **Senior Legion:** Games can be 7 or 9 innings during the season or post season. Review the final State playoff bracket for Post Season information.
- 26) PITCHING RULES "A", "AA" & "AAA" NEWLY ADOPTED PITCH COUNT RULE

REFER TO THE NATIONAL RULE BOOK PAGES 15-18 FOR THE NEWLY ADOPTED PITCHING RULE FOR AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL STARTING WITH THE 2017 BASEBALL SEASON. You can also view, print or download the National Rule Book on our state website at www.wastatealb.org

27) DUAL PARTICIPATION: During the regular season only players in the "A" Division of American Legion Baseball may participate in other amateur baseball programs. The Team Manager and the player must obtain written approval from the Department Baseball Chairman, prior to participating in the event and/or tournament. May 15th is the deadline. There is a dual participation form on the state website on the forms tab.

Clarification: Dual participation shall in no way interfere with a player's responsibility to his American Legion Baseball Team. Once tournament play has begun (Divisional Tournament up and through American Legion World Series) the Department Baseball Chairman cannot grant permission to participate in non-Legion sanctioned tournaments, exhibition games, showcases, or combines. The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Any American Legion Baseball player missing any American Legion league game without prior permission, because that player participated in another non-sanctioned baseball event such as exhibition game, tournament, showcase, combine, or other youth programs, shall be ineligible for post-season tournament play.

28) UNIFORMS: Coaches must be in the same uniforms, pullovers, windbreakers of team colors with required patches, as players in all league and post-season games. ALB patches (left sleeve or left chest if sleeveless

uniform) and American Flag (back of the uniform) must be sewn or silkscreened onto all uniforms. All Legion logos are protected by copyright laws. Companies that silk screen in your local area can fill out a request form for the right to silk screen on the baseball patch to uniforms. Additional screen print information is available on-line on the national website. There are also companies listed on the National website that are preapproved to silk screen the American Legion Baseball patch on uniforms and jackets. Wilson Sports is one of the approved providers and you can find a local dealer at. http://www.wilson.com/en-us/forms/finddealers

29) EJECTION RULE:

- 1. Coaches/players ejected from any ALB league or post season game must be reported to the Area Senior Commissioner by the Umpire Association's Assignor and the team manager or coach of the ejected person the same night of the infraction or the next morning.
- 2. Following an ejection of a coach by an official of the Association, both the umpires assignor/liaison and coach shall provide a written report to the Area Senior Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours. Suspension shall not be enforced until a review has been conducted by the Area Senior Commissioner. If this happens in the post-season then the commissioner in charge will handle the situation and could overturn the player/ coach's 1 game suspension.
- 3. The coach/player must sit out the very next scheduled game.
- 4. If a second ejection from any ALB league or post season game, the coach/player would be dismissed for the next three consecutive games unless reinstated by the Area Senior Commissioner for league and district play and by the State Tournament Director (Commissioner-in-charge) at State Tournaments. If a fan is removed for a second time, then the local umpires and the field/school supervisor(s) will remove the fan for the remainder of the year.
- 5. Third ejection will dismiss that coach/player for the remainder of the season.
- 6. Any player, coach, manager or fan ejected by an umpire must leave the ballpark and cell phones are not to be used for communication to the field of play. (No lingering in stands or down the lines). If a fan doesn't leave, local law enforcement will be called to remove the fan.
- 7. Specified games will be forfeited if the coach fails to self-report the league/district ejection to the Area's Senior Commissioner or if the ejected coach/player fails to sit out the next game.
- 8. **UMPIRES:** Will have the discretion of administering restraint when ejecting someone. Warnings and restricting coaches/players to the dugout, prior to ejecting someone, is encouraged. Area senior commissioner shall investigate all ejections during the American Legion Baseball season. Actions by coaches incurring multiple ejections may result in the removal of, or exclusion from being asked to return in subsequent seasons.

APPEALING EJECTION:

- 1) League and District appeals to the Area's Senior Commissioner must be submitted within 24 hours of the initial ejection.
 - A. Conduct. The Area Commissioners may remove 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. 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 warn and/or eject from the game any individuals violating this regulation.
 - C. Sportsmanship. Any player, coach, manager, or other party accompanying a team will be warned and/or 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.
- **30) ALCOHOL/TOBACCO/DRUGS:** The use of any form of drugs, alcohol or tobacco 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. All players will sign the drug and alcohol forms prior to the season.
- **31) HELMET RULE:** All players are required to wear a double-flapped, ear-protective helmet while batting, running bases and on deck in all league and non-league games. This is safety and insurance policy requirement.
 - 1. Bat boys or girls must wear a double-flapped, ear-protective helmet while on the field.
 - 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. The type of helmet shall be a personal choice of the coach.

MLB will not mandate the type of helmet nor shall The American Legion dictate the type of helmet a coach wishes to wear while in the coaching box. <u>Helmet Rule Violations</u>: Umpires are instructed not to put the ball into play and to warn the coach on wearing a protective helmet. If the coach refuses to wear a helmet he shall be ejected from the game.

32) BAT RULE: The NCAA has adopted a new standard for non-wood bats in 2012 called BBCOR.

ALB PLAYING REGULATIONS RULE 1

- **A. Bat Rule.** Wood, metal, ceramic, composite, or graphite bats may be used. Wood bats comprised of laminate or composite wood may be used. The bat must not exceed 42 inches in length and 2 ¾ inches in diameter "
- 1. Any non-wood bat must have the BBCOR certification code marked on the barrel of the bat.
- 2. Any bat in the opinion of the umpire that has been altered shall be removed from the game, the player shall be ejected and the team manager shall be ejected.
- **33) 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. 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.

2017 ALB - PLAYING RULES

- 34) Senior "AAA" All American Legion Baseball (ALB) Rules will be used for Senior "AAA."
 - a. ALB Rules will be used for all League Games, Divisional & State Tournaments. There is no use of courtesy runner or re-entry rules allowed. You may only DH for the pitcher.
- 35) Junior "AA" All American Legion Baseball (ALB) Rules will be used for Junior "AA."
 - a. ALB Rules will be used for all League Games, Divisional & State Tournaments
 - b. Courtesy runners for catchers and pitchers, DH for anyone, and re-entry rules are all allowed for AA league and post-season play.

- c. No graduated senior will play in league play unless the Areas Senior Commissioner approves the player based on the small school enrollment of 468 or below.
- 36) Junior "A" All American Legion Baseball Rules used for Junior "A."
 - a. ALB Rules will used for all League Games, Divisional & State Tournaments
 - b. Courtesy runners for catchers and pitchers, DH for anyone, and re-entry rules are all allowed for Junior A league and post-season play.
- **37)** All teams must complete their respective League and Divisional Tournament seasons to be eligible for the post season (State, Regional, and/or World Series).

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

WA STATE AMERICAN LEGION AGE ELIGIBILITY CHART FOR 2017 SEASON

AGE	BIRTH YR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
12	2005	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	Not Elgible
13	2004	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	A Division
14	2003	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	A Division
15	2002	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	A & AA Division
16	2001	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	AA Division
17	2000	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	AA Division
18	1999	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	AAA Division
19	1998	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	AAA Division
20	1997	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	Not Elgible

- Any Junior team with a player approved by Senior Commissioner born in 1999 must register as a Senior Team and can play in the Junior Division with Area approval
- 2016 High School graduates must have appeared on a previous approved Legion team roster to be eligible for the 2056 season. Players shall not be eligible for transfer or waivers.
- > Players born in 1998 & 1999, must play in the Senior Legion Baseball Program
- > Players (age 12 and under) born 2005 and after are not eligible to play American Legion Baseball.
- Players born 1997 or before are no longer eligible to play American Legion Baseball
- 38) Players Age: Senior American Legion Baseball competition in <u>2017</u>

"AAA" TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND PLAYER RECRUITING

- a. "AAA" teams may recruit from high schools whose combined enrollments do not exceed 5,000 students in grades 10-12. The SPI March 31, 2017 enrollment report will be used.
- b. Players born in 1997 are NOT eligible to play American Legion Baseball.
- c. The roster cannot exceed 18 on any type of team.
- d. Maximum of 3 double rostered players may be added from the local "AA" program.
- e. Double rostered players may not play in "AA" and "AAA" Divisional and State tournaments simultaneously.
- 39) Players Age: Junior "AA" American Legion Baseball competition in 2017

"AA" TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND PLAYER RECRUITING

- a. A stand alone "AA" team may recruit from high schools whose combined school enrollments do not exceed 5,000 students in grades 10-12. The SPI March 31, 2017 enrollment report will be used.
- b. Clarification: Current "High School" juniors, sophomores and freshmen are eligible.
- **c.** Players born in <u>2000</u> and are currently HS Juniors are eligible but your team will register as a <u>SENIOR</u> "AAA" TEAM + purchase senior insurance.
- d. If team recruits from one high school and enrollment is below <u>468</u>, current 1A High School Seniors are eligible to play. Senior Commissioner will be allowed flexibility with this rule.
- e. Maximum of 3 double rostered players between "AA" to "AAA" programs.
- **f.** Double rostered players may not play in "AA" and "AAA" Divisional and State tournaments simultaneously.

40) Players Age: Junior "A" American Legion Baseball competition in 2017

"A" TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND RECRUITING

- a. Team may recruit from high schools whose combined enrollments do not exceed 5,000 students in grades 10-12. The SPI March 31, 2017 enrollment report will be used.
- b. Current "High School" sophomores and freshmen and qualified 7th & 8th graders are eligible.
- c. If enrollment is below 188, current 2B High School Juniors are eligible to play. Senior Commissioner & State Commissioner will be allowed flexibility with this rule.
- d. Maximum of 3 double rostered players between "A" to "AA" programs.
- e. Double rostered players may not play in "A" and "AA" Divisional and State tournaments simultaneously.

The following information is available as separate documents or on our state website at www.wastatealb.org

- Post Season District Tournament Information.
- Tournament Host Responsibilities
- State Tournament Information
- Forms
 - Drug & Alcohol
 - Concussion Form
 - Code of Conduct
 - Dual Participation
 - o Form 76

Other General Information

- National Website: http://www.legion.org/baseball
- ALB Resources: http://www.legion.org/baseball/resources
- National Team Registration: http://baseball.legion.org/
- WA State ALB Hall of Fame: http://www.waalbhof.org/
- WA State ALB Foundation: http://www.waalbfoundation.org/

THE WASHINGTON STATE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMISSION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND THESE RULES PRIOR TO OR DURING THE BASEBALL SEASON.