Revised Fall - 2016

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| 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 below. Each area is managed by a Senior Commissioner who has additional Commissioners who help him manage the Area. As you know the west, east, north and south parts of the state are different in demographics and geography. Sometime what works on the west side of the state may not work on the east side of the state. Therefore; when reviewing the following Standard Operating Procedures; be aware that your Senior Commissioner for your area may issue an addendum to this document that may strengthen 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. The following is important information and our standard operation procedures for the upcoming baseball season. If at any time you are confused you should consult your area Commissioners for clarification.

### **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 2017.
	1. Deadline Date for declaring a team for the 2017 Season. A, AA or AAA. Dates may or may not be different for each division.
	2. Deadline Date and a list of all team and player paperwork required in order to be eligible to play and/or to be eligible for post season play.
	3. A list of all required and not required meetings of team managers for discussions, scheduling, league structure, playoff formats and to review any necessary paperwork.
	4. Deadline Date for the purchase of your team’s insurance policies from S.A. Van Dyke insurance company. (liability and medical policies)
	5. Deadline Date for you to register your team on the State Website.
	6. Deadline Date for you to register your team on the National Website.
	7. Deadline Date for at payment of all league fees.

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. (With a few minor exceptions – see National ALB Rule Book)
2. The current rule book published by the National Headquarters of American Legion Baseball. Usually available in March of current playing year.
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 leagues as partnerships and for all of us 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 THE SENIOR COMMISSIONER.
2. PAPERWORK AND REGISTRATION - Teams that have not submitted all “ERRORLESS” paperwork, completed team state and national registrations and paid all team registration fees by your areas applicable due dates will be considered exhibition team for the current season. Exhibition teams do not qualify for the post-season.
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 more than 3 returning players from the previous season’s roster.

1. NOTEBOOKS: Team notebooks will be brought to all league games including a copy of the state SOP’s to include all Area Addendums. *There is a $5 replacement fee for any missing ID card. The following items should be in your team notebook:*
	1. Team roster from National Site.
	2. ALB issued ID card or original birth certificate for each player on team roster.
	3. A copy of this document and any area addendums.
	4. Alcohol/Tobacco form signed by each player on roster.
	5. Any additional forms required by your area.
2. **INSURANCE RULE:** Prior to the first practice or league or non-league game, every American Legion Baseball team must purchase both group liability and accident insurance “online” on the National American Legion Baseball website from the American Legion’s agent of record (S.A. Van Dyk, Inc.) by the date established by your area. It is important to understand that you must comply with all State and National safety rules during the season, to include league, non-league and tournament games, to be in compliance with your insurance policies.
3. **SCHEDULES:** Enter your teams “league home games” onto online scheduling and scoring system, which tracks the daily game schedule, scoreboard and league standings, by the date established by your area.
4. LEAGUE SCHEDULE DEADLINE: No league schedule changes may be made after the date established by your area, except for rain, umpire shortage, or severe emergencies, with approval of the Area Senior Commissioner. Do not back end your league games and summer tournament games.
5. 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.
6. FINISH SEASON: 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 Commissioner, Don Hays, along with a $50 fee.
7. 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 and will be responsible to pay for any umpire costs incurred by home team.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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 the states 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.
11. 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 District Tournament, then both teams will receive a penalty established by your areas Senior Commissioner.
12. 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:

51.7.1 The contest shall continue from the point of suspension at a later time.

51.7.2 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.

1. 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 Pointstreak within 24 hours.
2. 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):
	1. 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.)
	2. 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.
	3. Runs allowed in league play between the tied teams.
	4. Runs allowed in league play versus team #1, #2, #3, #4, etc.
	5. 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.
	6. The play-in game(s) will be held the day following the last day of league play.
	7. 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.
3. ONLINE GAME SCORES: Home team coach will enter the score for all home league games onto Pointstreak.com within 24 hours of the completion of the game.
4. GAME BASEBALL: You must use a quality baseball during the season. Please insure that you do not mix the different brands and types of baseballs during league and tournament play. The Baseball Commission will reserve the right to require an official baseball that will be used in all state tournaments.
5. UMPIRES: Teams must use their local association for all league games.
6. PROTESTS AND APPEALS: Protest will have a $50 applicable fee and evidence accompanying protest within 24 hours. Appeals must also be written and submitted to the Area Senior Commissioner within 24 hours of the initial protest.
	1. League and District appeals to the Area’s District Commissioner must be submitted within 24 hours of the initial ejection.
		1. 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.
		2. 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.
		3. 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.

1. RUN MERCY RULE: The ten run rule will apply to league, divisional, and state games; 4 ½-5 innings in a seven inning game or after 6 ½-7 innings in a 9 inning game.
2. PITCHER WARM-UP: Pitchers may warm-up between innings, for both juniors and seniors. Home plate & bullpen catchers/coaches must wear protective mask while warming-up pitchers in the squatted position.
3. INNINGS PLAYED:
* Junior Legion: All games are 7 innings even the “AA” State Championship game but no ten run rule is used in this game
* Senior Legion: All games may be 7 or 9 innings. Consult your area addendum to see if your area has a requirement. All Senior State Tournaments will be 9 inning games.
1. PITCHING RULES “A”, “AA” & “AAA” – NEWLY ADOPTED PITCH COUNT RULE

 1.R. Pitching Rule.

Senior American Legion Baseball programs. No player may pitch more than a total of 120 pitches per day. A pitcher will be allowed to finish a batter if they reach or exceed the maximum limit during an at bat, but must exit the position after the hitter. No player may make more than two appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period. PENALTY – The pitcher and team manager shall be ejected from the game if a protest is filed with the umpire-in-chief before the last out of the game.

* + 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.
		2. Rule 1.R shall be used in all state and national tournaments.

*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.*

3. 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 “Ball.”

a) The 12-second timing starts when the pitcher is in possession of the ball and the batter is in the box, alert to the pitcher. The timing stops when the pitcher releases the ball.

b) The intent of this rule is to avoid unnecessary delays. The umpire shall insist that the catcher return the ball promptly to the pitcher, and that the pitcher take his position on the rubber promptly. Obvious delay by the pitcher should instantly be penalized by the umpire. (Official Baseball Rule 8.04.)

Junior American Legion Baseball programs. No player may pitch more than a total of 105 pitches per day. A pitcher will be allowed to finish a batter if they reach or exceed the maximum limit during an at bat, but must exit the position after the hitter. No player may make more than two appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period. PENALTY – The pitcher and team manager shall be ejected from the game if a protest is filed with the umpire-in-chief before the last out of the game.

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 trips 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.

2. Rule 1.R shall be used in all state tournaments.

1. DUAL PARTICIPATION - A DIVISION ONLY: During the regular season, American Legion Baseball players or teams may participate in other amateur baseball programs. The Team Manager and the player must complete the dual participation form and obtain written approval from the Department Baseball Chairman, prior to participating in the league, event and/or tournament. DUAL PARTICIPATION IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE AA OR AAA DIVISIONS.
	1. 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, 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.*
2. 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. PATCHES REQUIRED: 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. The screen print information is available on-line on the national site.
3. EJECTION RULE:
4. Coaches/players ejected from any ALB league, non-league, tournaments or post season game must be self-reported to the Area Senior Commissioner. Penalty for not self-reporting will be levied by the Area’s Senior Commissioner.
5. 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.
6. The coach/player must sit out the very next scheduled league, non-league or tournament game.
7. 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.
8. Third ejection will dismiss that coach/player for the remainder of the season.
9. Any player, coach, manager or fan ejected by an umpire must leave the ballpark or out of sight and cell phones are not to be used for communication to the field of play.  (No lingering in stands or down the lines)

1. 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.
2. 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 District Commissioner must be submitted within 24 hours of the initial ejection.
	* 1. 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.
		2. 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.
		3. 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.

1. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO: The use of any form of 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.
2. HELMET RULE: Your insurance policies require All players wear a double-flapped, ear-protective helmet while batting, running bases and on deck during all tryouts, practices, league, non-league, tournaments and season games.
	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. Your insurance policies require Base coaches are required to wear a standard batting helmet, with or without earflaps during all tryouts, practices, league, non-league, tournaments and season games. (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. Helmet Rule Violations: 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.

1. 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.

1. 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

1. Senior AAA – American Legion Baseball Rules will be used for Senior “AAA.”
	1. 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.
2. Junior AA – American Legion Baseball Rules will be used for Junior “AA.”
	1. ALB Rules will be used for all League Games, Divisional & State Tournaments
	2. Courtesy runners for catchers and pitchers, DH for anyone, and re-entry rules are all allowed for AA league and post-season play.
	3. No graduated senior will play in league play unless the areas Senior Commissioner approves based on the small school enrollment of 468 or below.
3. Junior A – American Legion Baseball Rules used for Junior “A.”
	1. ALB Rules will be in force for all League Games, Divisional & State Tournaments
	2. Courtesy runners for catchers and pitchers, DH for anyone, and re-entry rules are all allowed for Junior A league and post-season play.
	3. Any player turning 16 during the calendar year of the baseball season needs prior approval of the areas Senior Commissioner before being added to the team

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS





1. Players Age: Senior American Legion Baseball competition in *2017*

“AAA” TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND PLAYER RECRUITING

* 1. “AAA” teams may recruit from high schools whose combined enrollments do not exceed 5,000 students in grades 10-12.
	2. Players born in *1997* are NOT eligible to play American Legion Baseball.
	3. The roster cannot exceed 18 on any type of team.
	4. Dual Rostering Policy:
		1. You can only double roster up to 5 players from a Junior Team that feeds your Senior Team.
		2. Double rostered players cannot complete in two state tournaments at the same time.
1. Players Age: Junior “AA” American Legion Baseball competition in *2017*

“AA” TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND PLAYER RECRUITING

* 1. A stand alone “AA” team may recruit from high schools whose combined school enrollments do not exceed 5,000 students in grades 10-12.
	2. Clarification: Current “High School” Juniors, sophomores and freshmen are eligible.
	3. Players born in *2000* and are currently HS Juniors are eligible but your team will register as a SENIOR “AAA” TEAM + purchase senior insurance.
	4. If team recruits from one high school and enrollment is below 512, current 1A High School Seniors are eligible to play. Senior Commissioner will be allowed flexibility with this rule.
	5. Dual Rostering Policy:
		1. You can only double roster up to 5 players from a Junior “A” Team that feeds your Senior Team.
		2. Double rostered players cannot complete in two state tournaments at the same time.
1. Players Age: Junior “A” American Legion Baseball competition in *2017*

“A” TEAM ELIGIBILITY AND RECRUITING

* 1. Team may recruit from high schools whose combined enrollments do not exceed 5,000 students in grades 10-12.
	2. Current “High School” sophomores and freshmen and qualified 7th & 8th graders are eligible.
	3. If enrollment is below 207, current 2B High School Juniors are eligible to play. Senior Commissioner & State Commissioner will be allowed flexibility with this rule.
	4. Maximum of 5 double rostered players between “A” to “AA” programs.
	5. Double rostered players may not play in Divisional and State tournaments simultaneously.
1. Concussion Management and Training: We encourage all Team Managers and Coaches to take an online course in concussion management. The health and safety of all who participate in American Legion Baseball should be high-priority.