

Welcome to the 2020 American Legion baseball season. NE saw a lot of great baseball in 2019, I am hopeful for a repeat.

The biggest item is the new **Federal Law** that requires abuse awareness training. Unlike the background check (must be done on the Legion background site) the required certificate of abuse awareness training for adults can be obtained in many locations and if you already have a certificate from your job, that will work also. This certificate is required to be in the team book and inspectable by the TD once post season starts. (more to follow once the National office gets the new policy past the legal office)

Protecting Young Victims From Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (public law 115-126-Feb 14, 2018)

All participants of The American Legion, Department of Nebraska Baseball program, that are not players, and are listed on the Form 1 (team roster), are required to take abuse awareness training. A certificate of training must be provided to the post season tournament director or upon request.

The American Legion has been concerned about child maltreatment from the very beginning of our organization. Our major emphasis has always been the education of adults who come in contact with children to recognize the signs of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. Managers, coaches, administrators, and others responsible for children while they are away from their parents should familiarize themselves with the warning signs of all forms of child maltreatment and, when necessary, report any suspected maltreatment to the proper authorities, and ensure that these children are referred to the appropriate child protective service in their community.

<http://www.sportdev.org/Legion> see the NE baseball website “required certifications” section for the help slides (guide) on how to create an account and take the training.

Rule changes/additions

2.11 PROTESTS AND DISPUTES: For regular season, contact your Committee representative, page 6. All questions, disputes and protests within the state program shall be decided by the Department Athletic Chairman or Committee. The Department Athletic Committee shall have the power to disqualify or suspend anyone violating MLB, National or Department rules. See Rule 6.08 for Post Season Tournaments

Prior, there had only been rules quantifying post season protests.

4.06 PENALTY: Any player, coach or manager ejected from an American Legion Baseball game will result in:

(a) During **regular Season** and **post season** tournaments any conduct by players, coaches or managers resulting in an **ejection** are suspended for the remainder of that game must leave the ball park area and will also serve a **Mandatory** one game suspension (7.E National rule).

Rule is now inline with Nationals where the person ejected must depart the area, not just the field.

Tournament Dates and Site are posted on the web page. <https://www.nelegionbaseball.net/2020tournaments>

- May 1st: Team registration must be done
- May 15th: All fees paid and insurance purchased: Team Approved – teams cannot be approved until the background checks are completed and the fees are paid. Fees are paid in 2 separate locations this year, National and State fees are paid during the registration. To purchase insurance, you will be redirected to the insurance company website.
- May 31st: All Transfer Forms (Form 76's) must be completed and turned into me or Department (If a player does not attend your school, you need to do a Transfer Form 76)
- June 6th: Tournament Director meeting
- June 15th Last day, Rosters must be submitted into the National System
- June 30th: NLT day to get ID cards in a timely manner

This year, all Area and State umpires will be assigned by the Umpire Liaison Committee. Tournament directors will be working with the Umpire Liaison Committee for these names shortly after the June 6th Tournament Directors Meeting

New NSAA COOP schools: see rule 3.04(c) St Paul / Palmer; Fort Calhoun / Cornerstone Christian

New Legion Combined schools: Platte Center / Humphrey; Overton / Elm Creek / Amherst / SEM; Bridgeport / Dalton; Gordon / Rushville / Hay Springs

It may be a new season, but these items have not gone away:

- New players need the **Birth ID card**, form is on the NALB website
- Admin Note: cards are valid throughout the players eligibility, retain from year to year but new players will need a card. Many teams waited until just before the seeding meeting last year. Recommend that you not count on my niceness this year.*
- **Background checks** are required every year
- **Concussion training** certificate every 2 years (State Law 71-9105)