

2025 American Legion Baseball Rule Changes

The following are the rule changes for the 2025 PA American Legion Baseball season: Please refer to the rule within the rule book for official language.

- * **Starting in 2025** Junior Legion Teams will follow national rules the same as the Senior Legion, to include the requirement to use wood or wood composite bats for game play. Junior Legion Prep will still be able to use any bat they wish.
- * At all levels of PA American Legion Baseball, in order to qualify for the State Regional Tournament all teams are required to have played a minimum of 12 games, which include at a minimum, 9 league games, and at least 3 additional American Legion Baseball games to total of 12 games. If a team is scheduled to play 12 leagues games in addition to other games against Legion teams then they must complete at least 9 of the league games and as many other games to get to their required 12 overall games to be eligible for post season play. These are minimums and all leagues and teams are encouraged to play as many games as they can schedule.
- * 6. 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.

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 department state tournament play has completely concluded and should there be open dates prior to team travel (August 4) to national regional tournaments, a player(s) may be granted permission to dual participate. CLARIFICATION – Players attending military assignment, MLB-sanctioned invitation-only 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.

- * **Tournament Rules and Policies:** This is for the Senior National Tournament Series only:
 - Extra Innings: If the score is tied after nine (9) complete innings, each half-inning following the ninth inning will begin with a runner on second base. The runner placed on second base at the start of each half-inning shall be the player in the batting order immediately preceding that half-inning's leadoff hitter. By way of example, if the number five hitter in the batting order is due to lead off the tenth inning, the number four player in the batting order shall begin the inning on second base.
- * **PA Child Abuse Background Check** – effective January 21, 2025: PYS will require that all coaches, managers, volunteers and players 18 and older complete all background checks annually to include the PA Child Abuse background check. Although Pennsylvania only requires that the check is completed every five years, due to the possibility that something may occur after the check has been cleared. To receive clearance for Legion Youth Programs the PA Child Abuse Background check will be an annual requirement going forward.