



American Legion Baseball Virginia

Baseball Policy 2026

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Table of Contents

Dates to Remember in 2026	2
1. CONDUCT.....	4
1.1. Unsportsmanlike Conduct	4
1.2. Suspension for Rule Infractions	4
1.3. Background Checks & Abuse Awareness Training	5
1.4. Prohibited Substances.....	5
2. Department, League, and Team Administration	6
2.1. Department of Virginia Baseball Committee.....	6
2.2. Team Registration	7
2.3. Playing Rules	10
3. PROTEST PROCEDURE	16
4. JUNIOR BASEBALL PROGRAM.....	17
5. DEPARTMENT TOURNAMENT.....	18

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
American Legion Baseball Policy Guidebook

Dates to Remember in 2026

Date	Action
January 1	Teams can begin Computer Registration on The American Legion Website (www.baseball.legion.org) with National Headquarters.
March 31	Department Chairman will download the student population for each public and private school in Virginia and send this file to Division/League Chairmen to forward to each team manager.
April 1	Distribute ALB Scholarship applications to posts, coaches, and players.
April 15	Deadline for Department Chairman to email copies of department policies to national.
April 15	Deadline for Department Chairman to file copies of Plan-A rezoning to national.
April 15	Plan "A" rezoning or new zoning filed and approved by Department baseball committee
May 15	Application for Team insurance MUST be purchased and paid by credit card or debit card. After this date the computer will accept your Roster; in Virginia, a Late fee of \$200 will be charged until June 1 st .
May 15	Deadline for early registration and purchase insurance and pay registration fees. Teams MUST be registered with The Department of Virginia. This is done ON-LINE with the National website by SUBMITTING TEAM APPLICATION . Note: <i>Team Administrators are encouraged to create the Team application and receive approval as early as possible to permit the Baseball Committee to confirm League and Team structure.</i>
June 1	DEADLINE (AT MIDNIGHT) to Register all teams on-line on the National website. This is done ON-LINE with the National website by SUBMITTING TEAM ROSTER . AFTER THIS DATE, THE COMPUTER REGISTRATION – WILL NOT ACCEPT YOUR REGISTRATION. <i>Note: Department Chairman will REVIEW your roster and not hit APPROVE at this point. If Teams need to make changes prior to the final roster due date of June 25th, Teams must coordinate ANY changes with Department Chairman.</i>

Date	Action
June 10	The ORIGINAL copies of the National Player Transfer Forms (Form# 76) and Team Declaration Form # 77 MUST be received by the League Chairman.
June 15	The ORIGINAL copies of the National Player Transfer Forms (Form# 76) and Team Declaration Form # 77 MUST be received by Department Baseball Chairman. NONE will be accepted after this date.
June 15	League Chairmen FORWARD team VA-ALB Form #3's – listing Base Schools and all other schools that EACH team is recruiting players from to the Department Baseball Chairman.
June 15	League Chairmen must email League Rules & Schedules to the Department Baseball Chairman.
June 25	DEADLINE for eligibility on post-season qualification and championship tournaments—All Team Rosters of all Players MUST be Approved on-line at the National Website, on or before midnight of this date.
June 25	ABSOLUTE DEADLINE—All Team Rosters (FORM 1) of all Players MUST be Approved on-line at the National Website, on or before midnight of this date.
July 5	ALL Scholarship Applications MUST be received at Department Headquarters or emailed to Department Chairman by this date. NONE WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE. <i>This permits Department Baseball Committee to review applications during Department Convention.</i>

1. CONDUCT

1.1. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

A. Any manager, coach, or player who conducts themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner during any American Legion Baseball activity reflects adversely on the program and shall be removed from further participation.

- No player, coach, or team shall harass, abuse, heckle, or make uncomplimentary remarks to any opposing player or team official.
 - Anyone violating this rule if ejected must leave the ballpark immediately and have no further contact with the team during the remainder of that game.
 - The League Chairman is responsible for correcting discipline issues, which may include suspension for a game, season, or indefinitely from American Legion Baseball in Virginia.
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1.2. Suspension for Rule Infractions

A. Any player, coach, manager, or fan accompanying a team will be suspended for the remainder of the game, from the time of rule infraction, if they:

- Use profane language in any manner
 - Show unnecessary gestures in protesting an umpire's decision (only the team captain or coach may ask for clarification, but should never argue)
 - Throw bats or other equipment
 - Make unnecessary gestures to fans, umpires, or opposing players
 - Resort to unnecessary roughness on the playing field
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1.3. Background Checks & Abuse Awareness Training

A. All coaches, managers, and volunteer staff ("Designated Individuals") must undergo background check screening and Sexual Abuse Awareness Training Annually.

- Per American Legion Risk Management Policy, all staff are required by American Legion resolution to have adult abuse awareness training and background checks.
 - Background checks include:
 - Social security number verification and address history trace
 - Alias names national search
 - National criminal database search
 - National sex offender registry search
 - Disqualifying criteria include convictions for felonies, crimes involving minors, force, sexual behavior, controlled substances, cruelty to animals, sex offender registration, or refusal to undergo screening.
 - Each individual 18 years old and above must fill out an online form and pay the required fee. Team application and roster will not be approved until all coaches have passed a background check.
 - Only the authorized provider engaged by The American Legion National Headquarters may conduct these checks.
 - Without background check and abuse awareness training, individuals are not allowed on the baseball field during practice or games.
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1.4. Prohibited Substances

A. The use of any form of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal substance by a player, coach, manager, or umpire is prohibited on the playing field or at any official baseball meeting, gathering, or function.

- Violation will result in removal from the game, meeting, gathering, or function.
- Dugouts, players' benches, and bullpens are considered part of the playing field.

2. Department, League, and Team Administration

2.1. Department of Virginia Baseball Committee

A. American Legion Baseball competition shall be played under the rules set forth and adopted by the National Americanism Commission and the policies set forth by Department of Virginia baseball committee and of the Division/League rules as approved by the Department Chairman.

B. Department policies are supplementary to and not intended to conflict with the official American Legion Baseball rules of the National Americanism Commission for the current year. The purpose of these policies is for further clarification of American Legion Baseball competition within the Department of Virginia. All games shall be played under the Official Baseball Rules, except as provided herein.

- It shall be the duty of the Division/League baseball Chairman to schedule and conduct organizational meetings, and to notify all Posts in their District/League of the time and location.
- The Post Baseball Chairman/Team Manager, together with the Division/League Chairman/Committee members, shall formulate such rules and regulations as they may deem necessary for baseball competition within their leagues that are not in conflict with National and Department rules.
- The Department Chairman shall furnish national headquarters a copy of the Department policies before April 15 of the current year.

C. American Legion Baseball in Virginia shall be governed by the Department Baseball Committee consisting of a Department Baseball Chairman, Department Vice-Chairman, and Committee Members, consisting of a minimum of one (1) member each from the Northern, Eastern and Western Regions. The Regional Chairman shall ensure each team in their Region conforms with post-season tournament eligibility for the Department Championship tournament. The Department Baseball Chairman shall submit reports of all committee action and activity to the Chairman of the Athletic Committee.

- The Baseball Committee shall prepare and have published policies in accordance with National and Department Rules.
- The Committee shall prepare a budget and submit it to The Department Athletic Chairman.

- The Committee shall determine the eligibility players and teams and perform all other necessary functions for the conduct of the Baseball Program, as promulgated by The American Legion and the Department of Virginia Baseball Committee.
- The Committee shall establish clear-cut channels of authority and an appeals procedure (see department protest procedure at paragraph 3).

D. The League and Team structure will align with American Legion Department of Virginia organizational structure and will follow seventeen (17) districts for all American Legion Administrative Programs. Baseball shall be under the control and supervision of the Districts/League Baseball Chairman who are appointed by the District Commanders. The teams will be organized into 6 Divisions/Leagues. Each Division/League will be run under the management of a Division/League Chairman. The 6 Divisions/Leagues shall combine into 1 of 3 Regions (East, West, and North). The Regional Chairman will oversee the activities of each League within their Region.

- A copy of all Division/League policies must be filed with The Department Baseball Chairman by May 15th of the current year. Copies of the policies will be filed with Department Headquarters and made available to the committee members.

E. Division/League Chairman should seek to compete within their Regions with teams from the other Division/League to permit Department qualifying tournament seeding.

F. Teams from one Division/League, entered in the league schedule of another District/League shall be governed by the rules of American Legion Baseball and policies of the Host District/League that they are competing within.

G. The Virginia American Legion Baseball Coaches Forum (hereinafter the "VLBC") serves as a collaborative assembly for coaches across the state to share insights, address concerns, and foster communication with the State Baseball Committee. Established in January 2026, the Committee acts solely as a conduit for relaying information and ideas, without authority over league structure, rules, or governance. It operates in a manner like a departmental leadership team, facilitating bidirectional dialogue to enhance the overall experience of American Legion baseball in Virginia.

2.2. Team Registration

A. **PLAYER AND TEAM REGISTRATION:** American Legion Baseball Teams **MUST** submit their roster and be approved by the Department Baseball Chairman and the National Form #1 filed via the National Website ([HTTPS://baseball.legion.org](https://baseball.legion.org)). Non-compliance with this rule will result in disqualification from tournament competition.

B. All teams in the Department of Virginia will receive approval from the local American legion Post prior to participating in league games. The official roster must reflect the Post sponsor as the roster team administrator. Acceptable Post approval authority is the Post

Commander, Adjutant, or Athletic Chairman. Posts may vary the amount of sponsorship funds allocated to teams; however, Post membership is expected to ensure baseball coaches and players conduct reflect the values of American Legion. Teams registering with The American Legion, Department of Virginia must register online at the National Website ([Home | American Legion Baseball Registration](#) or <https://baseball.legion.org>).

- National Registration Fees: \$50 Seniors and \$25 Juniors.
- Each team participating in the American Legion Baseball Program in Virginia shall pay an entrance fee of \$500 for Senior Teams and \$300 for Junior Teams
- The department will charge late fee of \$250 for Teams registering after May 15th. All team registrations must be final and approved by the Department Baseball Chairman by June 1st
- All registration fees (both State and National) and K&K Insurance are paid by credit card or debit card on the National Website (<https://baseball.legion.org>).
- Every American Legion Baseball team (both Junior and Senior) MUST Purchase both group Liability and Accident Insurance from The American Legion's agent of record. (K&K Insurance). Coverage must be purchased NO LATER THAN June 1.
- Teams that miss the established deadline shall have until JUNE 1 to submit proof of insurance without penalty. The Department of Virginia will assess a LATE FEE of \$200. **Point of emphasis:** *Missing the JUNE 1 deadline will result in the disqualification from any post-season tournament competition. .*
- Insurance will cover all players during the tryouts, and Insurance Coverage is provided after commencement of the Player Season for all players whose names are registered with The American Legion Baseball on National Form #2 and National Form #1. **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*
- Who is insured? During the tryout period all players are covered (provided enrollment Form #2 and payment have been received) and, after commencement of the playing season, coverage is provided for all players whose names are registered on Forms #1 and #2 with The American Legion. During the entire coverage period, protection is also afforded to American Legion team managers, coaches, batspersons, Athletic Officers and Post Commanders while involved in activities associated with American Legion Baseball.
- American Legion Baseball was never designed to allow teams to have Open Rosters. The Department final roster closing date is May 25th in Virginia. When a team is playing another legion team (especially in a league game), that game is considered a regular season game, and the roster needs to be on file with the Department. **Point**

of Emphasis: Historically, some teams have had difficulty putting 9 or more players on the field early in the season; managers and coaches **MUST** put **ONLY** eligible players on the field and must **UPDATE** their roster online and inform League Chairman and Department Chairman and opposing Manager prior to the start of the game. I understand this may burden League Chairman and Managers and players as updates are tracked each game. Permitting "open" rosters essentially lessens the integrity of league standings. Additionally, understanding the extent of the problem will help League and Department Chairman to design alternative strategies to address root cause issues.

- 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.
- All teams both Senior and Junior under "Plan B" Player Recruiting Rules must have an assigned BASE SCHOOL, (Player Receiving "Plan B" – National Rule 4). Listed on National Form #1 as a starting point to recruit players. No team may change their base school without the consent of their district chairman and the department baseball chairman (Exception to this rule may not be granted).
- A. Non-base School Players under Plan "B", to determine nearest team from several base schools use shortest driving distance as calculated by MapQuest® – www.mapquest.com.

C. It shall be the responsibility of the District/League Chairman to obtain within his District/League of the enrollments of the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades of all schools that the teams recruit players. The Department Chairman will receive an electronic file the American Legion Baseball website containing the official school student enrollments for all public and private high schools in Virginia

D. For Plan B recruiting a team designates a "Base School". For Plan B recruiting teams shall count the enrollment of the high school each player attends. The combined total enrollment of all schools cannot exceed a total of (7,500) for a combination of the tenth (10th), eleventh (11th) and twelfth (12th) grades.

E. The Plan A zones are established in accordance with National Policy. Plan A recruiting zones must be reviewed and approved by the Department Baseball Chairman and submitted to National Baseball Committed prior to April 15. For Plan A teams, the parents' residence must be within the zone for a player to play on that team.

F. The Division/League Baseball Chairman shall forward to the Department Baseball Chairman the VA-ALB Form #3 of all teams in the league no later than June 15th of the current year.

G. Non-American Legion Post Sponsorship: Non-Legion (outside) Sponsorship is permissible; however, those organizations **MUST** be incorporated, and they are subject to the approval

and supervision of the Department Baseball Committee. The Corporation must be registered with the State of Virginia.

2.3. Playing Rules

A. The American Legion Code of Sportsmanship will be repeated by competing players/teams before each game, without exception. Failure to comply will result in appropriate disciplinary action by the District/League Chairman. The code should be led by a Legionnaire on the field, an adult coach, or team manager. All bull pen activity must stop, and all players and coaches must be present along the base line during the repeating of code of sportsmanship and the playing of the national anthem.

B. All regular and post-season League games for Senior Division will be 7 innings or 9 innings as established by the League Chairman. The 10-run rule will be in effect after 5 innings or 4 ½ innings completed if the home team is ahead; or after 7 innings or 6 ½ if a 9-inning game if home team is ahead. Managers may agree to play a 9-inning game at their discretion; and if so, that is entirely up to the manager to agree to play a 9-inning game at the plate conference.

C. All teams in the Department of Virginia American Legion Baseball Program must play a minimum of ten (10) games in American Legion League competition to be eligible for Department championship round play (the total of Regular season Division/League level or Department Qualifying Tournament games must be at least 10 games).

Teams shall be permitted to count games played against **non-Virginia American Legion teams** toward minimum games played requirements, eligibility for postseason participation, and consideration in league or regional standings.

- Eligible games must be played against officially chartered American Legion teams.
- All such games must be properly reported in accordance with Virginia American Legion Baseball reporting procedures.
- This provision is intended to support teams experiencing geographic, travel, or scheduling limitations that prevent completion of a full in-state league schedule. Use of non-Virginia American Legion games for eligibility purposes shall not disadvantage teams completing a full in-state schedule but shall provide equitable access to postseason qualification.

D. COURTESY RUNNERS: For either Senior or Junior Teams, courtesy runners are permissible during regular season games and post-season during league, department, regional, or world series tournament games. "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."

E. RE-ENTRY: Re-entry is permissible during regular season games at Senior Division; however, re-entry is NOT allowed for Senior Games during league, department, regional, or world series tournament games. A player may re-enter a game one time and when he re-enters, he MUST bat in his original batting order.

F. RE-ENTRY: All junior games, regular and post-season play, may use the courtesy runner Designated Hitter Rule, and the Re-Entry Rule. A player may re-enter a game one time and when he re-enters, he MUST bat in his original batting order. The substituted player coming into the game MUST play at least one inning on defense and batted one time.

G. DESIGNATED HITTER: Any batter may be designated hitter for the Pitcher and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game. A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the starting lineup. A designated hitter for said player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the line-up cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and the official scorer. Failure to declare a designated hitter prior to the game precludes the use of a designated hitter in the game. If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designated hitter is used that player becomes the new designated hitter. No multiple substitutions may be made that alter the batting rotation. A designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order. The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game when:

- The defensive player, or any previous defensive player for who the designated hitter batted, subsequently bats or pinch-hits for the designated hitter; or
- The designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

H. ONE-WAY COMMUNICATION: A coach may use a one-way electronic communication device to communicate with the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches.

I. COACHES HELMET: The American Legion follows official baseball rules, therefore, all team on field coaches, in both junior and senior leagues, are mandated to wear a helmet when in the coaching box. The coaches must wear a protective helmet while in the coaching box, he can wear a single, double or no flap helmet. If he does NOT have a helmet that coach cannot remain on the field.

- Another part of this rule mandates the coaches remain in the coach's box until the ball is put into play. For safety reasons coaches will not be allowed to creep towards home plate until the ball is in play. Coaches must have both feet inside the front of the coach's box. However, if the coach wants to move away from the plate – out of the back of the box, it will not mandate that he stays in the box. This is a safety rule put in by Major League Baseball. If a coach is outside the box (closer to home plate) he will be warned ONCE and the 2nd infraction he WILL be ejected. If he is out of the back of the coach's box this is not considered an infraction.

J. Only players and coaches who are registered on the National Roster are permitted in the dugouts and on the field. Coaches and players MUST all be in the same uniform (color and style), including any type jackets worn that must have an American Legion Patch on the jacket, to be on the playing field during Division/League, Department and National competition.

- Scorekeepers and anyone not listed on the team roster are not permitted in the dugouts. One bat boy/girl per team allowed if approved before the start of game. Bat boys/girls must keep helmet on all during the game.

K. The Department of Virginia will operate in full compliance with American Legion Baseball Pitch Smart guidelines as to the rest that a pitcher must have between games.

- Taking into consideration the number of pitches a pitcher threw in his last outing and the number of days' rest from the last outing and the individual pitchers' physical and mental capabilities.
- Some coaches are allowing young pitchers to throw too many pitches per game with not enough rest between starts.
- Some coaches are allowing young pitchers to throw too many pitches in a single inning; the stress put on the pitcher's arm increases significantly when a high number of pitches is thrown in a giving inning.

L. The Division/League Chairmen shall have the responsibility to certify All birth dates on the National Form #1 (Rosters) in their Division/League are correct according to the National Rule Book (Rule 2.E. Proof of Age) by one of the following methods:

- Records of birth must be an ORIGINAL DOCUMENT from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or Health Department, or other government agency authorized to certify birth documents.
- NOTORIZED PHOTOCOPIES OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES, HOSPITAL RECORDS, BAPTISMAL RECORDS, SCHOOL RECORDS OR CERTIFICATES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF AGE AND PLASTIC BIRTH ID CARDS WILL DISQUALIFY A PLAYER AND/OR THE TEAM.
- WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE AS PROOF OF AGE:
 - A State issued Driver's License or State issued ID that complies with the new Federal ID law.
 - A U.S. Government issued Passport.
 - A U.S. Government issued Military ID Card or Dependent ID Card.

M. In case of foreign birth, a player will present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service that shows the birth date of the bearer. Office birth certificates issued by a foreign country are acceptable when accompanied by a letter with an English translation, and such birth certificate must have an official seal.

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

N. Do not send copies of any proof of age to Department or League Chairman. However, the coaches MUST present original copies of proof of age at all District/League, State, or National Tournaments. **Note:** *leading practice is for coaches to maintain a team binder consisting of team documents to quickly validate any player eligibility protests and as required for tournament participation.*

O. PLAYER AGE ELIGIBILITY: The below age chart demonstrates the ages of eligibility in both Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball program.

- January 1st is the age limit cut-off date.
- A player born in 2014 and after is NOT eligible to play Legion Baseball.
- Any player born in 2007 or 2008 must play Senior Legion Baseball.
- Players born in 2009-2014 are eligible for either Junior or Senior Legion Baseball.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Typical Grade	Year
12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	Not Eligible	2014
13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	7th Grade	2013
14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	8th Grade	2012
15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	Freshman	2011
16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	Sophomore	2010
17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	HS Junior	2009
18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	College or HS Senior	2008
19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	College or HS Senior	2007
20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	Not Eligible	2006

P. When entering your roster of players, make sure they are entered in Alphabetical order with last name followed by first name and middle initial. Do not leave out any vital information. **Note:** *Prior to your roster being APPROVED final for tournament competition, Coaches should use “place holders” where needed to ensure that all 18 roster spots are accounted for. The Department Chairman will delete these placeholder roster spots if they are not filled prior to the final deadline of June 25th.*

Q. National Form 2 Player Indemnification Agreement must have the Player's signature and date in the proper space. **Note:** For ALL players: Parents/Guardian's signatures must appear on Form 2, and it must be notarized before a Notary Public.

- Copies of Form 2 can be downloaded from the ALB National website and Department Baseball website. The Form 2 is used only if a player requires medical treatment.
- All items on Form 2 must be completed. The original copy stays with the team manager and MUST be presented at the Department tournament during team registration. Any Player or Team that fails to complete and forward a National Form #2 SHALL be disqualified from further play.

R. Player TRANSFER: National Player Transfer Form #76, and Team Declaration Form #77, WILL NOT be entered into the National Website, they will be validated by the Division/League Baseball Chairman before the roster can be finalized.

- The original copy of the National Player Transfer Form #76 and Team Declaration Form #77 must be received by the Division/League Chairman by June 10th. The Division/League Chairman will verify the information and forward the original copy to the Department Chairman before June 15th of the current year. All forms 76 or 77 emailed or postmarked after these dates will not be approved. National rules state that players requiring a form #76 or #77 cannot be placed on the National Form #1 without prior approval.
- Transfer forms are valid for current season only. Senior players released from a team MUST obtain permission on National Form #76 from that team's manager to play for the team that is closest to his PARENT's DOMICILE.
- The Division/League Chairman shall have the authority to grant a transfer waiver (Form 76) should a coach refuse to sign after being given ample opportunity. This would allow the player to play for the next team nearest to his residence after being cut or failing to make team following tryouts or if no tryouts are conducted.

S. Player OPTION: Players attending a high school (including grade 9) outside a team's recruiting area has 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. Determine this by MapQuest (www.mapquest.com). This is done on National Declaration Form #77.

T. COLLEGE PLAYERS: Any age-eligible player meeting domicile requirements are eligible to play American Legion Baseball according to National Rules.

U. DUAL PARTICIPATION. During the regular season, American Legion Baseball Players or teams may participate in other amateur baseball programs, however, the Team Manager and the Players must obtain written approval from the Department Baseball Chairman prior to participating in the event and/or tournaments. Dual participation ends after the qualifying

round and players' dual participation is not permitted for the championship round. The use of National Form #6 is strongly recommended and is available online at baseball.legion.org .

- 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 National American Legion Baseball Committee chairman through the Department Baseball Chairman is required.
- The American Legion believes team loyalty is key ingredient for any team Sport. Any American Legion Baseball player participating in another non-sanctioned baseball event such as an exhibition game, tournament showcase, combine or another youth program may be ineligible for post-season tournament play. The Department Tournament Director will adjudicate any player's eligibility as needed. The Department Baseball Chairman is the final decision authority.

V. Baseball Scholarship Applications. We continue to experience difficulties with Posts submitting the baseball scholarship applications and certification form by the deadline. The absolute deadline this year is July 10th in time for consideration at the Department Convention. Those received after that date WILL NOT be considered in the final selection. All applications received by that date will be considered and a final winner selected at the Department Convention by the Baseball Scholarship Committee.

- The requirements to award a scholarship are outlined in the application.
- Players must be listed on the 2026 roster and the team must be affiliated with an American Legion team.
- A scholarship can only be awarded to a player going to college.
- A scholarship can only be based on individuals demonstrating outstanding leadership, citizenship, character, scholarship, and financial need. The scholarship cannot be awarded to the tournament MVP; this is in violation of the NCAA rules.
- Three letters of testimony are required
- The Post Commander must sign the application.
- A transcript of grades must be provided.
- The application will be available online after January 1, 2026 at <https://baseball.legion.org>

3. PROTEST PROCEDURE

A. All questions, disputes, and protests within a Division/League shall be decided by the Division/League Chairman, who shall determine whether to disqualify or suspend anyone for violating League, Department or National Regulations.

B. Any team protesting a game must do so at the time of the rule infraction and before the next legal pitch is thrown. The umpire shall announce the game is being played under protest and sign the official scorebook indicating the date/time, situation, and reason for the protest. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in the protest not being allowed. The Chief Umpire shall file a written report (within twenty-four (24) hours) after a protested game, with the Division/League Chairman describing the circumstances and facts of the rule(s) involved.

C. Each Division/League shall have a Protest Committee. This committee shall hold a meeting, review the protest material and render a protest decision within seven (7) days after being informed by the District Chairman of the protest.

D. Protest involving judgment calls by umpires will not be considered.

E. Following a protest committee decision, the Division/League Chairman will issue a decision to the teams involved in the protested game. An appeal of a Division/League Chairman's decision to the Department Chairman shall be accompanied by \$100 (cash, certified check or money order). The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. If the protest is not upheld, the fee shall be deposited to the Departments Baseball Fund. Any appeal made to the Department Baseball Chairman shall be in writing; Telegrams are considered as written appeal. As necessary, The Department Chairman shall seek the advice and guidance of the Department Baseball Committee.

F. Decisions rendered by the Department Baseball Chairman, as Supported by the Department Baseball Committee shall be final, unless it can be shown that the decision(s) was in direct violation of the National Rules. No appeal shall be considered by the Department Baseball Chairman until all established appeals procedures in the Division/League have been exhausted. The Department Chairman is the final appeal authority.

G. All requests for interpretations of American Legion Baseball in Virginia must be made in writing; email is considered a written request. Should any player, coach, manager, or any party associated with any American Legion Baseball Team in Virginia write directly to the National American Legion Baseball Director for interpretations of American Legion Baseball in Virginia, it shall be considered a violation of this policy and the party or parties shall be removed from further participation in American Legion Baseball for the remainder of the season.

4. JUNIOR BASEBALL PROGRAM

A. The Junior Program will serve as a feeder program for the Senior Program, thereby making for a stronger Senior Baseball Program. The Junior Program shall be a 17-year-old and under program. The Junior Program will serve to keep the Legion Baseball Program strong and from losing players to other programs. A Junior Baseball Program can stand on their own without having an affiliation with a Senior Team.

B. Senior Team Programs that have an associated Junior team the previous year should use their returning Junior Team Players to feed their Senior Program. Junior Team Players attending the same schools listed on the Senior Team's Form #1 (Roster) are eligible to remain with Senior Team.

C. DUAL ROSTER: Junior Players are allowed to play for both a Post Junior and Senior team and must be affiliated with the same Post sponsor. This player MUST be on both rosters to be covered by each team insurance. Only players 17 years of age and under are eligible for both the Junior roster and Senior roster.

D. Non-dual rostered Junior players may be added to the Senior roster for post-season tournament play: if a Senior Team drops below 12 players on the roster, then that team can bring up to 3 players up from the junior team, so the team will meet the minimum of 12 players. This is applicable during the Division/League, Department, or National Tournament play ONLY. Managers must first obtain approval from the Department Baseball Chairman.

E. POST SEASON TOURNAMENT PLAY. The tournament location and tournament rules will be determined by the baseball committee prior to the tournament starts. Awards will be provided by the Department.

- Each team requiring lodging in The Junior Division Department Tournament shall make a damage deposit of \$200 (cash or certified check) to The Tournament Director. Deposits will be returned to the teams at checkout, provided damage claims are not pending against the team.

F. Funds to cover the Hotel expenses will be taken from the extended Registration fees for Junior Teams listed in. This expense cannot exceed the amount of registration fees collected for the year and the amount available as set in the Department Baseball Budget.

G. Junior Teams are encouraged to seek outside sponsors to help the post finance their teams. There will be no further play beyond Department Tournament unless finances and the opportunity are available.

5. DEPARTMENT TOURNAMENT

A. An application Agreement to host the State Baseball Tournament will be mailed to all Division/League Athletic Chairman. The successful bidder will be the host team and if they are the District Champions, the tournament runner-up will be the District Representative Team. Any deviation from this rule must be clearly stated in the application agreement by the successful bidder. A minimum bid of at least \$3,500 for Senior Division is required to be considered for the tournament application.

B. During the Department Tournaments for Senior, at least \$200 or of the Registration fees will be used to pay tournament housing expenses and not to exceed the actual revenue received and available.

C. Senior and Junior Teams are responsible for their own meal expenses.

D. The Tournament Host Director will furnish The Department Tournament Director with a lodging estimate. This estimate will be immediately submitted to The Department Baseball Chairman for payment from these funds. This amount cannot exceed the amount collected in team fees for that year. The tournament host must submit final report of expenditures within 10 days after the conclusion of the Department Tournament to the Department Baseball Chairman.

E. It shall be the responsibility of the Host Post for the Department Tournament to arrange for a team registration and tournament banquet (mandatory for Senior tournament and recommended for Junior tournament) to be held on the evening before the start of the Department tournament.

- Accommodation must meet the approval of the Department Baseball Committee who shall visit and approve these arrangements. The Department will reimburse the host for Lodging expenses; however, the amount to be reimbursed cannot exceed the amount of registration fees collected for the year and the amount available as set in the Department Baseball Budget.

F. All participating Posts shall be responsible for the conduct and behavior of their players, managers, coaches and fans. Violation of Department Tournament rules or any form of improper behavior or conduct could result in the suspension from further competition in the Department Tournament for a period of one (1) year or more.

G. The Department of Virginia Baseball Tournament shall consist of two [2] rounds: The Qualifying Round and the Championship Round.

H. The Department Baseball Tournament shall not exceed eight (8) teams. The Department of Virginia, American Legion Baseball Program will consist of six [6 Divisions/Leagues located throughout the state. These divisions will be comprised of enough teams to ensure competitive balance each having played a minimum of 10 games within their League and

Region consisting of both regular season and Department Qualifying Round games prior to the Department Championship Round.

I. All six certified Division/League championship teams shall be eligible to participate in the Department of Virginia Baseball Tournament. A team, participating in a balanced league and the Department tournament host shall be eligible for Department Championship tournament. The host team will be the 7th tournament team. An At-Large tournament bid will be given to the Region with the greatest number of teams. Leagues with only a few teams MAY NOT earn a tournament a bid if they play in one of the smallest or unbalanced leagues. Leagues with only a few teams may not earn a tournament a bid if they play in one of the smallest or unbalanced leagues.

- If the Champion is not available, the runner-up may advance. If the Champion or Runner-up is not available, then the league will forfeit the bid to the Championship round.
- The Division/League or Region that will play to determine a Department Tournament representative will announce their schedule to the Department Baseball Chairman/Committee within five (5) days after the Department Convention.
- All Division/League Tournaments and playoff games shall be completed by Friday before the start of the Department Tournament.
- The Department State Championship Team MUST be certified to the National Americanism Commission by the State Chairman. Certification must be faxed no later than midnight July 31, 2026.

J. Minimum Active Players. Teams completing in ALB Senior Division/League, Department or National Tournament must always have 9 eligible rostered players available for participation.

- Players not with the team during check-in may be considered available for tournament play; all players must check-in with the Tournament Director prior to being entered on the line-up card.
- The final decision on player eligibility will be at the discretion of the tournament director, and the final authority is the baseball chairman.

K. Teams with less than 12 players on their roster available for play may assign players from the Junior roster to the Senior roster to get the number of active players up to 12. Players assigned to the senior roster from the Junior roster must be approved and certified by the Department Baseball Chairman. Players must be on the Junior Roster certified to National office.

L. When players are transferred up to the Senior Team for tournament play, coaches/team managers will be required to have all the necessary information available on each player at team check-in, team roster and proof of age.

M. Tournament play in the Department of Virginia above the Division/League level will be under the direction of the Department Baseball Chairman, or a designated member of the Department Baseball Committee.

N. The Department Tournament Method for the elimination of teams competing shall be two (2) losses and the team is out of the tournament.

O. Teams eliminated from Department Tournament (second loss), when the game ends by 8pm shall return home and not be housed at the host expense.

P. Umpires for the Department Senior and Junior Baseball Tournament shall be appointed by the Department Baseball Chairman and Tournament Director.

Q. The Department Baseball Chairman and/or the Department Baseball Committee may prescribe policies for the playing of the Department Tournament that it considers necessary to select the Virginia Champion to advance to National Regional tournament by the deadline.

- SUSPENDED GAMES: Suspended games will be completed from the point of suspension. 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.
 - Upon Suspension, a plate conference will ensure, and Team Managers, Tournament Director, and Department Chairman will decide whether to “call” the game or continue until completed.
 - All players are assumed to be available for the duration of the tournament; so, at earliest opportunity, regardless of player availability, and if field location and umpire crew are available, that game may be completed.
- However, circumstances beyond the control of the tournament organizers, i.e., extended delays for rain, the Department Tournament Director or Department Baseball Chairman may take extraordinarily measure to ensure the tournament can be completed by the National deadline. If rain or other acts of God or mother-nature cause a serious delay in a game or tournament, the Department of Virginia Baseball Chairman may call a suspended game or may adjust Tournament brackets to select a winner.
 - Tournament tie-breaker procedures will be discussed at the Tournament sign-in with all coaches.

R. Two (2) properly maintained practice fields must be available. At the tournament site and scheduling for the practice fields will be done by the tournament director or his designated representative.

S. The District/League Champion must be announced to the Department Chairman by the District/League Chairman not later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the beginning of the Department Tournament schedule.

T. The pitching record from the District/League tournaments will carry over to the Department Tournament in compliance with the rule for rest days for pitchers.

U. Teams advancing to the Department Championship tournament must bring their Qualifying tournament team pitching log with them to the Department tournament. The log must be approved and signed by the league chairman.

V. The National Americanism Commission has an established policy that always prohibits artificial noisemakers of any nature. Fans who operate noisemakers, such as air horns, bells, shakers, rattlers, etc. will be asked not to do so. A second warning will cause those fans to be removed from the stands and the park.