

**DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
AMERICAN LEGION
BASEBALL
2023 BY-LAWS**



**of the 6th District
As of 3/19/2023**

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Be it known the District By-Laws were adopted on 03/19/23 meeting at Hillcrest Post 1194.

The following Posts/teams being present: Endicott Post 82, Hillcrest Post 1194, Binghamton Post 1645, Windsor, Vestal Post 89, Otego Post 1555, Hancock/Deposit, Johnson City Post 1305, Oneonta Green Wave Post 259.

Teams absent: Owego Post 401, Norwich, Maine Endwell Post 1700, Sherburne

Section 1

Administration/Membership

These By-Laws are intended to supplement the National and Department Rules governing American Legion Baseball and provide for the administration of American Legion Baseball at the District level and in no way be used to circumvent, revise, or amend the rules of the National Committee or the Department Baseball Committee. Any conflict of rules shall be resolved by reference to the Department and/or National Rules.

Section 1.1 Membership

Section 1.1.1 District Baseball Chairman

An individual appointed by their respective District Commander to act as a liaison between their respective District Commander and the Department Baseball Committee. The Chairman is responsible for promoting American Legion baseball in their respective district and throughout the state.

Section 1.1.2 District Baseball Director

An individual appointed by the Baseball Committee to oversee and supervise the District baseball program, under the general rules/regulations of the Department Baseball Committee.

Section 1.1.3 District Baseball Staff

Each District Director has the ability to recommend an assistant/administrator to the baseball committee for approval. The District Director will define the responsibilities of the responsibilities of the assistant/administrator.

Section 1.1.4 County Chairman

An individual appointed by their respective County Commander to promote a baseball program within their respective County and assist the District Chairman as needed.

Section 1.1.5 Post Chairman

An individual appointed by their respective Post Commander to supervise play of his Post entry and assure that all National and Department Rules are fully complied with, while being responsible for team conduct while participating with American Legion Baseball.

Section 1.1.6 Resignations/Replacements

Any Chairman or baseball official that fails to carry out their responsibilities or resigns may be replaced by the Department Baseball Chairman.

Section 1.2 Administration

Section 1.2.1 District Director Responsibilities

In addition to the powers and duties conferred upon by the Department Rules, the District Director:

- Shall resolve all disputes in player recruiting, eligibility and territories between Posts
- Shall promote the highest level of competition in their respective District
- Shall provide any District Chairman with the necessary information to be reported to the District Commander
- May suspend any team, coach, manager or player for conduct detrimental to the aims and principles of American Legion Baseball.
- May appoint committees or otherwise delegate authority

Section 1.3 Voting/Amendments

Section 1.3.1 Voting

Each team manager or authorized representative is eligible to vote. All teams must attend the mandatory March district meeting to be full voting members for that season. New teams that arise after that meeting may be considered for current year membership by a majority vote of current teams.

Section 1.3.2 Amendments

All rules and amendments require a 2/3 majority vote to be passed. Each team's manager or designated representative will cast a vote.

Section 2

Team Eligibility

Section 2.1 Eligible Teams

Membership shall be open to all Posts within the District. The District is defined as the Counties listed on the District page of the official Department website or any areas added by the Department Baseball Committee.

Any Post may enter a team for competition in this District by completing the new team application form (with approval) by the deadline as indicated in Section 10.

The impact on existing teams recruiting area will be given consideration.

Under no circumstances will more than one (1) team be able to use the same base school.

Teams without a Post sponsorship are also eligible in areas where there is not a Post sponsored team.

Any team that files their final roster with less than 12 players listed will be ineligible for the District Tournament.

Section 2.2 Team Organizational Structure

Each team shall have a Manager appointed by the Post Commander and/or the Post Baseball Chairman. This Manger shall be indicated on the National Team Registration form. The team Manger or his appointed representative should be present at all District meetings.

The Post Commander and/or Post Baseball Chairman is responsible for supervising the play of his/her Post entry, for the team conduct while participating in American Legion Baseball and assure that all rules are fully complied with.

Section 2.3 Forfeits

The refusal to compete fully in the League will result in the forfeiture of the right to play in the District Tournament.

If a team is found to have an illegal player all games that player participated in will be forfeited and count as a loss.

A team does need 9 players to start and finish a game. If a team falls below the (9) player limit that team will forfeit. Each player must be listed on the teams' current national roster submission.

If a team does not have the proper paperwork to the District Director by their first league game, all games that are scheduled will be a forfeit until all proper paperwork is filed.

Any team that forfeits two (2) league games will be disqualified from the District Tournament. Additional penalties may be imposed as determined by the District Director with input from Department Baseball Committee.

NOTE: Any forfeits due to pitch count rule violations will not be counted towards the maximum forfeit rule listed above

A forfeit in the District Tournament will cause offending team to be removed from tournament play and be ineligible for the District Tournament in the following season. The District Director with input from Department Baseball Committee will review the circumstances of the forfeit, with consideration of injuries and other unforeseen circumstances, in determining the team's eligibility for the next season's league play and post season play.

Section 3

Individual Player Eligibility

A player is eligible to compete in the American Legion Baseball program as long as he abides by the American Legion National By-Laws and Player Eligibility requirements. These requirements can be found in the National Rulebook, Rule 2.

The National Rulebook, Rule 4D Transfer rule states that *"A player released from a team must obtain permission on National Transfer Form #76 from that team's manager"*.

Beginning with the 2023 season there will be three (3) levels of American Legion Baseball in the Department of New York: Senior (19U) / Junior (17U) / Prep (15U).

A player is granted an automatic release at each of the following occurrences:

1. At each level of American Legion Baseball, for example a player that has previously played at the Prep Level is granted an automatic release when he advances to the Junior Level and then again when he advances to the Senior Level.
2. Anytime a player's residence change results in a change in school, regardless of any change in level

Transitional rule for 2023 season only. A player that was given a release to a Junior team in 2022 was given that release under the rules that the release was good for the 2022 season only. Therefore, that player would be considered to have a clean slate of eligibility going into the 2023 season and would therefore qualify for the automatic release for the 2023 season to play either Junior or Senior level.

No manager shall deny a form 76 release to any player that qualifies for an automatic release regardless of player age.

A player loses this right to an automatic release once the player participates in a single game for any American Legion team at each level. At the end of the season, if the player is not advancing to the next level, the player can request a release, but the manager does have the right to refuse. (Exception: the team previously played for is no longer participating in the league.)

No dual rostering of players is allowed.

Managers and Coaches are expected to have integrity and reflect American Legion values. District directors will be responsible for settling any disputes that are unable to be resolved at the team level.

Any effort or attempt to undermine, avoid, or abuse this rule in any way will be met with strong disciplinary action by the State Baseball Committee up to and including dismissal of the manager.

Players who graduated in 2022 shall play for the last American Legion team they played for or for the team nearest his parents' domicile.

Section 4

Senior League Rules

Section 4.1

All teams must compete in the 6th District Baseball League to be eligible and complete their league schedule to be eligible for the District Tournament. Refusal to complete fully in league play will forfeit your right to play in the District Tournament.

Section 4.2

Teams must also play a minimum of 10 games against fully registered American Legion teams. This can be accomplished by counting league and non-league games.

Section 4.3

A point system will be used to establish league standings:

Win = 2 points
Tie = 1 point
Loss = .5 points
Forfeit = minus 1 point

Section 4.4

Teams will be given the league schedule after the mandatory March meeting and any changes needed by any team must be submitted to District Director by May 1st. Soon thereafter the District Director will send all managers the final league schedule.

League Play Section 4.4.1 League schedules will be sent to the Department Chairman prior to the start of league play. League schedules must also be uploaded to the Department website, www.nylegionbaseball.com. Failure to do so will incur a \$200.00 fine for that District.

Section 4.5

A team that forfeits and does not call in a reasonable (24 hours except for weather cancellations) amount of time to cancel the umpires shall be responsible to reimburse the other team the full amount of umpire fees.

Section 4.6

All rainouts must be reported to the District Director / Baseball Administrator and rescheduled within 72 hours of the date of the rainout. The District Director / Baseball Administrator reserves the right to reschedule games if the teams cannot come to a mutual consensus or does not notify him within the 72-hour period.

Section 4.7

The winning team shall be responsible to notify the District Director / Baseball Administrator and Mike Jester of the **box score** of the game by the end of night so league standings can be accurately updated after each night. Mike Jester will keep the standings for the Senior division. Vince Trayling will keep track of the standings for the Junior division and he must be notified of the **box score** for each Junior game by the end of the night.

Senior Coaches - Each team must also report lineup cards with pitch counts after each game by texting them to Matt Ferraro. The pitch count cards must be signed by both coaches and it is the responsibility of the home team to text the pitch counts.

Junior Coaches - Each team must also report lineup cards with pitch counts after each game by texting them to Vince Trayling. The pitch count cards must be signed by both coaches and it is the responsibility of the home team to text the pitch counts.

Section 4.8

All teams must register electronically on the national legion website with the Department of New York and complete all the national background checks and forms.

All teams must be a registered team within the Department of New York State. Any team that has properly filed the necessary documents and has the proper liability and medical insurance as required by National and Department Rules is allowed to compete. All due dates will be provided to teams at the coaches meeting.

If a team does not have the proper paperwork to the District Director by the Department due date, the team will not be allowed to play in league play for that season unless authorized by the District Director or the Department Baseball Committee.

Section 4.9

All matters needing clarification of rules shall be run through the appointed Baseball Administrator who shall forward his ruling to the District Director. All teams may ask Administrator to recuse himself if the ruling involves his post team.

Chain of Command:

David Martinkovic -	District Director, District 6 Baseball Chair and 2 nd Vice
NYS Mike Jester-	District Assistant
Matt Ferraro -	District Assistant
Vince Trayling -	District Assistant (Juniors)

The penalty for not following chain of command for the first offense, the coach will be suspended for 1 game, the second offense the coach will be suspended for 3 games.

Section 4.10

No tobacco or chew in mouth during games by any players or coaches. The penalty will be that the coach is suspended for 3 games.

Section 4.11

Players are allowed to play travel ball, but once the District Tournament begins, they must make a choice until their team is eliminated from the districts. No player is allowed to play for any other team during the duration of their teams' participation in the District 6 Tournament.

Section 4.12

Players must be present for 5 of their teams scheduled league games to be eligible to play in the District 6 Tournament. The number of games will vary from season to season depending on what the number of games in the league schedule is. The number 5 is based on a 14 game schedule decided at the March meeting in 2023.

Section 4.13

Each team must have a properly equipped first aid kit with them in dugout at each game. The penalty for not having the first aid kit is the head coach will receive a 1 game suspension.

Section 4.14

Only coaches and managers that are listed on the team Form #1 will be allowed on the field or in the dugout during the game.

Section 4.15

Base coaches will wear baseball helmets when coaching base lines. The coaches on the baselines do not need helmet with ear flaps but if a player is coaching the baselines the helmet needs ear flaps.

Section 4.16

All players and coaches will wear a full team uniform, no shorts!

When District 6 Tournament play begins the uniform top worn by all players and coaches needs to include a legion shoulder patch. During regular league season the shoulder patch will not be required but is recommended.

Section 4.17

During District league play there will be a 10-run mercy rule in effect if the team losing by 10 runs or more has had at least 5 innings of at bats.

Section 4.18

Players must attend at least 50% (one half (1/2)) of their team's league games to be eligible to participate in the District Tournament.

Section 5

Protest / Appeals

Reference Department By-Laws Section 5 for all protest and appeals procedures.

Section 6

Junior League Rules

The rules stated in Section 4 apply to Junior teams unless specifically stated under this section.

Section 7

Playing Regulations

Section 7.1 Baseballs

All District League games must be played with the approved ball as indicated in the Department By-Laws

Section 7.2 Bats

Follow National Rule

Section 7.3 Courtesy Runners

Section 7.3.1 Seniors

Must check only one (1) option below:

- The courtesy runner rule as defined in section 7.3.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season only
- The courtesy runner rule as defined in section 7.3.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season and District Playoffs
- No courtesy runner rule will be allowed

Section 7.3.2 Juniors

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.

CLARIFICATION

The courtesy runner rule does not apply to a pinch-hitter for the catcher unless the catcher has been re-entered. A team may not use the same runner for the pitcher and catcher in the same inning. The courtesy runner may not be removed from a base to become a pinch hitter. A player removed from the game may not be used as a courtesy runner. Should the courtesy runner pinch hit, pinch run or enter the game at any position, he will no longer be eligible to be a courtesy runner. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered an illegal substitute.

Section 7.4 Designated Hitter

Section 7.4.1 Seniors

Must check only one (1) option below:

- The designated hitter rule as defined in section 7.4.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season only
- The designated hitter rule as defined in section 7.4.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season and District Playoffs
- The designated hitter will only be used for the pitcher as published in the Official Baseball Rules

Section 7.4.2 Juniors

A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) 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 lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer.

Failure to declare a designated hitter prior to the game precludes the use of a designated hitter in that game.

If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designed hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter.

A designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order.

No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation.

CLARIFICATION

The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game when:

- a) the defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch-runs for the designated hitter, or
- b) the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

Section 7.5 Re-entry Rule

Section 7.5.1 Seniors

Must check only one (1) option below:

- The re-entry rule as defined in section 7.5.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season only
- The re-entry rule as defined in section 7.5.2 is permissible to use during the Senior regular season and District Playoffs
- No re-entry rule will be allowed

Section 7.5.2 Juniors

Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-enter once, including a player who was the designated hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may NOT re-enter.

CLARIFICATION

Keep in mind that once the POSITION of DH is eliminated in the game it cannot be used again, however the PLAYER that was the DH is eligible to re-enter in the same position in the batting order for the substitute player that replaced him in the lineup, however he must play a defensive position.

Section 7.6 Pregame procedures

Each American Legion Baseball contest should be preceded by the following:

After the umpires have covered the ground rules, the American Legion Baseball Code of Conduct should be recited with both teams lined up on the baseline.

After the code of conduct either the National Anthem should be played, or the Pledge of Allegiance should be recited.

Section 8

Sr. & Jr. District Tournament

Section 8.1 Tournament Rules

- The 6th District Director shall organize an annual District Tournament for all divisions to determine a District 6 champion. The tournament will be held at a central location of the Director's choosing.
- District tournament playing rules shall follow the rules set by the National and Department playing rule books and MLB rules.
- A seeding meeting shall be held a day or 2 before the tournament and all teams that qualified must send a team representative.
- Senior and Junior division District Tournament games shall be 7 innings.
- Any game suspended due to weather, lighting failure or darkness will be resumed at the exact point of the original game unless the game is official (completed 4 ½ or 5 innings). The completion of a suspended game is a continuation of the original game. No innings shall be replayed.
- During District Tournament play (and league season) there will be a 10-run mercy rule in effect if the team losing by 10 runs or more has had at least 5 innings of at bats.
- All teams should have 12 players present for all District Tournament games. A game only can be started with 9 players and must end with 9 players, otherwise the game would become a forfeit. All players must be listed on the teams National Form #1 roster.
- If a team forfeits once the District Tournament begins through the end of the tournament that team (Post) shall be ineligible to participate in the District Tournament the next year. Exception: Team (Post) may be reinstated if the District Director deems that there are wholesale changes to the team where the offending parties have no association with the team any longer.
- All tournament protests shall be settled immediately by the District representative assigned to that game.
- All tournament games will have 2 umpires paid for by the district/Teams.
- When District 6 Tournament play begins the uniform top worn by all players and coaches needs to include a legion shoulder patch.
- Each Team participating in the district tournament will be required to bring a check prior to the first pitch of each game that will be used to pay for the umpires. This will be given to the District Director or designee and will be made out to the Binghamton Umpires Association.
- The following will be the criteria for tiebreakers:
 - Head to Head
 - Fewest Runs Allowed amongst tied teams
 - Coin Flip

Section 8.2 Senior Tournament

The District Tournament will be made up of four (4) team double elimination tournament as determined based on the point totals for each team after league schedule has been completed.

During District 6 Tournament play the following league play rules will not be used:

- No Courtesy runners allowed
- Re-entry will be allowed – see 7.5.2
- DH is allowed – see 7.4.2

Section 8.3 Junior Tournament

The District Tournament will be made up of four (4) team double elimination tournament as determined based on the point totals for each team after league schedule has been completed.

Section 9

Prep League Rules

- 9.1 Beginning with 2023, a new division of American Legion Baseball is created and hereby referred to as Prep Division.
- 9.2 Players will be eligible to play in Prep Division beginning with the minimum eligible age to play American Legion Baseball through age 15. For 2023, this would include birth years 2008-2009-2010. Districts have the option to restrict the ages below what is stated here. In order to do so the age specification **MUST** be included in the District Section 9 of these Bylaws. There is no way to make the age older than 15.
- 9.3 Playing rules
 1. The courtesy runner rule as defined in section 7.3.2
 2. The designated hitter rule as defined in section 7.4.2
 3. The re-entry rule as defined in section 7.5.2
 4. There will be **NO** extra hitter allowed at any time
 5. The pitch count rule as defined in section 7.9 of the Department bylaws is required for the entire season
- 9.4 Insurance

All Prep Division teams must purchase insurance through K&K through the registration site as a Junior team. See Department bylaws section 2.6 for more information.
- 9.6 Registration

All Prep Division teams must register on the National Website as a Junior team and **MUST** include 15U after the team's name to indicate that this is a Prep level team. Currently National does not have the Prep level team setup on its website. See Department bylaws section 2.6 for more information.

9.7 Roster eligibility

Roster limits and eligibility follow National Rules. Players new to American Legion Baseball have the one time option to select which team to play for.

The Prep level is designed to allow players coming out of Little League to have a place to play in American Legion Baseball. A concentrated effort should be made to focus on a teams' base school players.

9.8 There will be no Department level tournament for Prep Division in 2023

9.9 Baseballs must be stamped with American Legion emblem

Section 10

Important Dates

The 6th District shall have meetings as follows:

1. Mandatory meeting (after Mid-Winter Conference)
 - a. Any team that does not send a representative to this meeting, will not be allowed to participate in the league in the upcoming season
 - b. All teams must attend this meeting to be full voting members for that season
 - c. New teams that arise after this meeting may be considered for current year league membership by a majority vote of current teams
2. Follow up meeting March / April
 - a. All monies are due at this meeting
3. There will be a seeding meeting shortly before the start of the district tournament

The Team Picture (Junior & Senior teams) must be submitted to the District 2 weeks from your first game, if you do not comply, forfeits will be imposed until it is submitted. Submissions should include players names in order of appearance in photo.

Section 11

District Contacts

David Martinkovic – 607.267.6978

Mike Jester – 607.287.9468

Matt Ferraro – 607.760.3725

Vince Trayling – 607.765.1310