

VFW BASEBALL ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
HELD AT VFW Post 2638 Madison, SD
Sunday 10 AM, 8/22/2021

<https://www.facebook.com/departmentsdvwbaseball/live/>
[ZOOM LINK HERE](#) (meeting code: 816 8160 3363)

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Ceremony - Pledge of Allegiance
3. Introductions and Roll Call
 - 3.1. VFW Baseball Organizational Structure
 - 3.2. Roll Call/sign-in
 - 3.3. Video Conference Attendees
4. 2020 Minutes are posted
5. Unfinished Business
 - 5.1. 2021 Tournament Report: **164 (167 initial registrations)** teams participated or registered for 2021 VFW Baseball Tournaments (**2330 Players**)
 - 5.1.1. **2021 (164 teams)**
 - 5.1.1.1. 16U: All Star Game
 - 5.1.1.2. 16U: Class A **12** teams (**Dakota Valley**); Class B **25** teams (**Tyndall**) (no change)
 - 5.1.1.3. 14U: Class A **22** teams (**Vermillion**); Class B **30** teams (**Canistota/Freeman**) (+4)
 - 5.1.1.4. 12U: Class A **14** teams (**West Central Boltz**); Class B **20** teams (**Parkston**) (+7)
 - 5.1.1.5. 10U: Class A **12** teams (**West Central Hammers**); Class B **16** teams (**Parkston**) (+18)
 - 5.1.1.6. 8U: Open Class **8** teams (**Tea**) (+8)
 - 5.1.2. **2020 (146 teams)**
 - 5.1.2.1. 19U: Class B **20** teams (+20)
 - 5.1.2.2. 16U: Class A **16** teams (**Beresford**); Class B **21** teams (**Tyndall**) (+2)
 - 5.1.2.3. 14U: Class A **18** teams (**West Central**); Class B **30** teams (**Canova**) (-6)
 - 5.1.2.4. 12U: Class A **10** teams (**West Central Boltz**); Class B **17** teams (**Parkston 12s**) (-4)
 - 5.1.2.5. 10U: Open Class **10** teams (**Canistota/Freeman**) (-15)
 - 5.1.3. **2019 (145 teams)**
 - 5.1.3.1. 16U: Class A **15** teams; Class B **20** teams (-2)
 - 5.1.3.2. 14U: Class A **24** teams; Class B **30** teams (+3)
 - 5.1.3.3. 12U: Class A **11** teams; Class B **20** teams (-1)
 - 5.1.3.4. 10U: Class A **11** teams; Class B **14** teams (-3)
 - 5.1.4. **2018 (148 teams)**
 - 5.1.4.1. 16U: Class A **16** teams; Class B **21** teams (+3)
 - 5.1.4.2. 14U: Class A **19** teams; Class B **32** teams (-2)
 - 5.1.4.3. 12U: Class A **14** teams; Class B **18** teams (-1)
 - 5.1.4.4. 10U: Class A **12** teams; Class B **16** teams (+3)
 - 5.1.5. **2017 (146 teams)**
 - 5.1.5.1. 16U: Class A **16** teams; Class B **19** teams
 - 5.1.5.2. 14U: Class A **27** teams; Class B **26** teams
 - 5.1.5.3. 12U: Class A **15** teams; Class B **18** teams
 - 5.1.5.4. 10U: Class A **13** teams; Class B **12** teams

5.2. Registration and Website www.sdvfwbbaseball.com

5.2.1. 2022 Tournament Registration

5.2.1.1. **No Fee Structure Change** however, there are some timing changes

5.2.1.2. Early registration fee is **\$175** per team until **May 1**.

5.2.1.3. Registration fee is **\$200** per team from **May 2** until **June 15**. Entry form and rosters are due by **June 15th**.

5.2.1.4. Late registration is **\$225** per team from **June 16** until **June 21st**. It is imperative all age divisions registration/rosters be completed by **12 PM on June 21st** to allow class assignment, state and region pool play/bracket construction as well as region assignments to be completed no later than **June 25th**. **Rosters will be locked down at 12:01 PM June 21st**.

5.2.1.5. Initial team rosters with **complete** player information, including school last attended information, must be posted by **June 21st**. If your team roster **doesn't** have the information necessary to determine your class assignment, **VFW Baseball reserves the right to move you to a higher class or disqualify the team without refund**.

5.2.1.6. **June 21st at 12 PM** is the cutoff date for all roster changes to be posted on the website, late roster changes for all age divisions will be on a case-by-case basis and coordinated with the **VFW Baseball Chairman (do not post rosters to the website after 12 PM on June 21st)**.

5.2.2. Insurance: [Sadler Sports and Recreation](#): No Change

5.3. **Change 16U to 17U for upper age division. No change to lower age divisions. VFW Baseball Committee met in executive session following the annual meeting and had a lengthy discussion on this topic weighing the comments from the meeting as well as other sources. The VFW Baseball Committee voted at the end of the session to proceed with the change to 17U.**

9/10/2021: After recent correspondence and meetings as well as additional leg work and phone calls, the Executive Committee has gathered additional opinions and information. We continued reaching out to get input and comments from different baseball programs across the state to get their stance on our senior program moving to a 17U age division. After lengthy discussions within the Executive Committee and Baseball Committee, it was determined we should relook at the transition to 17U for the 2022 season. The Baseball Committee, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, has delayed the transition to 17U to continue discussions with baseball organizations across the state and will revisit the decision during the annual meeting Sunday, 8/21/2022, at 10 AM, Madison VFW Post 2638 (510 S. Washington Ave). We highly encourage all age divisions' baseball programs that participate in our 2022 VFW Baseball season to attend.

In accordance with our rules and by-laws, the Department of SD VFW Baseball reserves the right to act on what we truly feel is right for the program while balancing the opinions and input we gather from the communities participating in our program.

6. New Business

6.1. Team Manager versus Game Changer

6.1.1. In addition, each team will designate a Team Manager (TM) application by GameChanger Point of Contact (POC) with email for administration and official score keeper purposes.

6.1.2. During league or VFW season play TM Officers will both keeping TM active scoring. They will resolve scoring conflicts including pitch count real time creating one official contest.

6.1.3. It's highly recommended that Team Manager be used at **all age** division league and summer scheduled games.

6.2. VFW Youth Baseball Sponsor/Partnership Program Update

- 6.3. Rule Changes Submitted and items to be discussed (bold items below to be voted on)
- 6.3.1. **For good order and discipline:** Actions physical or verbal not in accordance with the VFW Code of Conduct or Coach's Code of Conduct and deemed to be contradictory to Department of SD VFW Baseball's mission will not be tolerated. Such actions may result in suspension from participating in any VFW program, tournament or event of the offending individual(s), team, association or city for a duration determined by the VFW Baseball Executive Committee. VFW Baseball Executive Committee is not required to warn the individual(s), team, association or city prior to final determination of consequences for the offending actions because the VFW Code and Coach's Code of Conducts are contained in our rule book.
 - 6.3.2. **DEFEATED Proposed rule change: Change to either DH or EH but not both in the same game to 14U and/or 16U (VFW Baseball Committee)**
 - 6.3.3. **APPROVED Proposed rule change:** Any **10U/12U** player who has played the position of catcher **in more than four innings** in a **calendar** day is **NOT** eligible to pitch on that calendar day.
 - 6.3.4. **Rule added (VFW Baseball Committee):** No alcohol consumption at any VFW Baseball or Sports event. Spectators will be asked to dispose of the product and/or be asked to leave the venue.
 - 6.3.5. **Rule added (VFW Baseball Committee):** For all other age divisions, the start of their season is the beginning of their state tournament and ends after their final game of the state tournament.
 - 6.3.6. **Rule added (VFW Baseball Committee):** If a team elects not to play a region game, the team forfeits and are disqualified from further participation in the tournament. There will **not** be a refund of registration fees.
 - 6.3.7. **ON HOLD, TO BE REVIEWED AUGUST 2022 after figuring out the ADM relationship with private and religious schools. Rule clarified:** Private, ~~Religious~~ and Homeschooled kids are exceptions to being added to the registering team's ADM. A release is not required.
 - 6.3.8. **Rule added (VFW Baseball Committee):** State tournament coaches' meetings are **mandatory**
 - 6.3.9. **Rule added (VFW Baseball Committee):** Prior to each region or state game, the VFW Baseball Representative, Tournament Host Directors or umpires will verify both teams' bats to be in compliance with the appropriate age division bat equipment rules and may affix that year's VFW Sticker. Any illegal bats will be held by the tournament host committee and will be available to the teams at the end of the tournament or a team's elimination.
 - 6.3.10. **Rule updated (VFW Baseball Committee):** Pool Play Tie Breakers Formats for all VFW Baseball Tournaments and may be used for seeding.
 - 6.3.10.1. Win-loss record in pool play
 - 6.3.10.2. Head-to-head competition, if all pools at the state or region tournament have equal number of teams and all teams have played each other in their pool (otherwise this is skipped).
 - 6.3.10.3. Fewest runs allowed (overall).
 - 6.3.10.4. Best run differential in all pool play games (maximum per game run differential of +10 or -10).
 - 6.3.10.5. If, in the event of a 3-way tie or more, the 3-way tie is broken either before step 3.32.4 or upon completion of step 3.32.4 and a 2-way tie remains, the two remaining tied teams will revert to step 3.32.2 and repeat the tie-breaker criteria from that point in order to break the tie.
 - 6.3.10.6. If still tied, the best of 3-coin flips alternating the call will be used.
 - 6.3.11. **Rule added (VFW Baseball Committee):** During any pool play, pool winners will be seeded via the tie breaker format first then the rest of the seeding will be completed.
 - 6.3.12. **Rule added (VFW Baseball Committee):** If Random Game Matching and Deconfliction is used, seeding will be from top to bottom.
 - 6.3.13. **Rule added (VFW Baseball Committee):** No matter the method of game scheduling, **the highest seed** (not pool winner) will be the home team through the bracket.

- 6.3.14. **Rule added (VFW Baseball Committee):** In the event of **voluntary** forfeit in Divisional/Pool Play, the non-forfeiting teams will be credited with a 10-run differential victory. Teams that forfeit a game cannot advance in tournament bracket play.
- 6.3.15. **PASSED Proposed Rule added (VFW Baseball Committee): (10U and 8U)** No intentional walks
- 6.3.16. **Rules clarified:**
- 6.3.16.1. **MODIFIED DURING MEETING TO REFLECT “IF” GAME SITUATION:** The “higher” seed will be home team throughout the bracket, except during the “if” game. Then winner of the previous game is the home team.
- 6.3.16.2. When a four region (champions and runner up advancing to the state tournament) format is used, the four regional champions will be awarded home team status in the first round.
- 6.3.16.3. When the 16U and 14U Class A and Class B tournaments consists of two teams from each region, the champion and runner-up. The region hosting the state tournament will have a host team, that team will replace the runner-up if it does not place 1st or 2nd in their regional tournament.
- 6.3.16.4. When seven regions are used, each region champion will proceed with the tournament host to the state tournament. When seven regions are used and the tournament host wins their region, the runner up team will also proceed to the state tournament. **The “Home Team” will be determined by coin flip.**
- 6.3.16.5. When two super-regions are used, each region will send 4 seeds to the state tournament. If the tournament host fails to make one of the seeds, the host team will replace the #4 seed in that region.
- 6.3.16.6. **(16U/14U)** State Tournament Host team will have the last game on Friday’s first round of play. Therefore, brackets are tentative until the last region has completed play. Host team will have their home dugout throughout tournament play.
- 6.3.16.7. Coin flip will be used to determine home/away team when the teams have the same seeding. All registered teams must play in a qualifying regional tournament. If pool play format is used in an “open” state tournament, there would be no need for a qualifying regional tournament.
- 6.3.16.8. **Discussion during meeting brought up trying to go to 4 regions when able versus 7. May be look at 6 regions as well as a way to balance region seeding with statistics. If an additional challenge bracket/game is used, the challenger may have to travel.**
- 6.3.17. **Rule clarified: All coaches** in the dugout or coaching on the field must participate in saying the VFW Code with their team or they will be asked to leave the dugout area until game is complete.
- 6.3.18. **Rule clarified:** A player **may** appear in a game as a pitcher for three consecutive days but will not exceed their zero days rest pitch count per day the first two days and the 1-days rest pitch count for the 3rd day. For example: 16U: 35, 35, **45** and 14U: 30, 30, **40**
- 6.3.19. **Rule clarified: (10U) No curve balls**, curve ball will be called a ball at the discretion of the umpire. If curve ball is put in play the offense can choose to accept the play or take a ball. Any violation to the pitching rules (inning pitch) will result in the pitcher being removed from the mound and can play any position but catcher.
- 6.3.20. **ADJUSTED DUE TO DISCUSSION: Rule updated/guidance added:** The Wilson A1010 or **Diamond HS baseballs** are the official SD VFW Baseball Program baseballs and will be used for **all age divisions** state and region tournament games. Official SD VFW Baseballs can be purchased via the website or email to the VFW Baseball Chairman. VFW Official Baseball’s will be sold at cost plus shipping and credit card fee. 16U/14U **State** Tournaments should put **new** VFW Baseball official baseballs in play at the start of each game **as determined by the Tournament Director.**
- 6.3.21. **Guidance added:** A regional tournament consists of teams from one area or region participating against each other. Region Coordinators will be assigned. Region Coordinators will

communicate and work with the teams in their region to ensure effective and efficient execution of their region bracket. Region Coordinators may or may not be the region host site.

- 6.3.22. **DEFEATED Proposed guidance added:** For state tournaments, the infield will consist of turf, either real or artificial. VFW baseball prefers turf infields for region tournament play, but a “skin” infield may be used if agreed to by the teams in the region.
- 6.3.23. **Proposed Guidance added:** At all age divisions, extra innings will **NOT** use the MLB expedient extra inning rules memo.
- 6.3.24. **APPROVED Proposed Guidance added/expanded:** National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules of baseball will apply to all VFW Baseball games except in all cases where VFW Rules and Regulations conflict with NFHS rules, VFW Baseball rules will supersede.
- 6.3.25. **Guidance clarified:** *The **age division** of the tournament being played will be used to determine the daily pitch count, not the age of the player pitching.
- 6.3.26. **Guidance added/expanded:** When confirming pitch count after the game, the coaches and official book will agree on both team’s pitch count as well as which days rest is in effect. However, the total pitch count will carry over to the Max Daily Pitch Count if the pitcher pitches another game the same day.
- 6.3.27. **Guidance clarified:** All games in the 12U division will be six (6) innings. The 10-run rule will be in effect after 4 innings and the 15-run rule will be in effect after 3 innings. During pool play, no new inning will start after 1 hour 45 minutes. **Ties in pool play only if game time is completed. New inning starts on first pitch of the inning. The game is over immediately, if the home team is winning and batting when the time limit completes.** Pool play should be completed on Friday or Saturday morning to determine seeding. Bracket games don’t have a time limit and will go extra innings if needed to determine the winner.
- 6.3.28. **Guidance added/expanded:** Bat requirements for 12U, 10U and 8U Age Division. All bats for 12U teams must be in accordance with USABAT Standard. The bat shall include the official stamp of **USA Baseball**. See this [link for USABAT](#). Any illegal bats will be removed from the game and the batter is out.
- 6.3.29. **APPROVED Proposed Rule change (VFW Baseball Committee):** All games in the **10U** division will be (6) six innings for bracket play and **5 innings during pool play**. No new inning after 1 hour 45 minutes, however the 10-run rule will be in effect after 4 innings and the 15-run rule will be in effect after 3 innings. **(10U/8U) Ties in pool play only if game time is completed. New inning starts on first pitch of the inning. The game is over immediately, if the home team is winning and batting when the time limit completes.** Pool play should be completed on Friday or Saturday morning to determine seeding. Bracket games don’t have a time limit and will go extra innings if needed to determine the winner.
- 6.3.30. **Guidance added/expanded:** (8U) No bunting allowed.
- 6.3.31. **Guidance added/expanded:** (10U) A courtesy runner is encouraged but not required for a pitcher or catcher at any point in the game. **The courtesy runner shall be the player that made the previous out. If no outs have been recorded in the game, the courtesy runner shall be the previous batter not on base.** This rule is to keep time between half innings to a minimum.
- 6.3.32. **Guidance added/expanded:** (10U) **ALL players on the roster submitted to VFW Baseball will bat through the lineup if physically available to play.** This roster/lineup will be exchanged prior to the first pitch and final after the first pitch.
- 6.3.33. **ADDED DURING MEETING Guidance clarified:** (8U) **Ball put into play hits pitching machine or ball bucket, the ball is dead and first base is awarded to the hitter.**
- 6.3.34. **NOT FEASIBLE Discussion:** Oldest age division wood bat only. (VFW Baseball Chairman)
- 6.3.35. Other rules as highlighted in document

6.4. 2021 Tournament Checklist Review and Recommendations

6.5. 2021 Bid packages will open approximately 9/15 and are due to the VFW Baseball Chairman by 11/15/2021. The bid packages this year must be completed on our website. Tournament Host Sites Reveal should be posted by 1/31/2022.

6.5.1. 2022 Tournament Dates

- 6.5.1.1. Class A and B 8U and 12U: **7/8-10/2022**
- 6.5.1.2. Class A and B 10U: **7/15-17/2022**
- 6.5.1.3. Class A and B 14U: **7/22-24/2022** (Regions should be completed by **7/14**)
- 6.5.1.4. Class A and B 16U: **8/5-7/2022** (Regions should be completed by **7/29**)
- 6.5.1.5. 16U All Star Game and Showcase: **8/13 2-6 PM**
- 6.5.1.6. 2022 SD VFW Baseball Annual Meeting: **8/21 (Madison VFW 10 AM)**

6.5.2. 2023 Tournament Dates

- 6.5.2.1. Class A and B 8U and 12U: **7/7-9/2023**
- 6.5.2.2. Class A and B 10U: **7/14-16/2023**
- 6.5.2.3. Class A and B 14U: **7/21-23/2023** (Regions should be completed by **7/13**)
- 6.5.2.4. Class A and B 16U: **8/4-6/2023** (Regions should be completed by **7/28**)
- 6.5.2.5. 16U All Star Game and Showcase: **8/20 2-6 PM**
- 6.5.2.6. 2023 SD VFW Baseball Annual Meeting: **8/20 (Madison VFW 10 AM)**

6.5.3. 2024 Tournament Dates

- 6.5.3.1. Class A and B 8U and 12U: **7/12-14/2024**
- 6.5.3.2. Class A and B 10U: **7/19-21/2024**
- 6.5.3.3. Class A and B 14U: **7/26-28/2024** (Regions should be completed by **7/18**)
- 6.5.3.4. Class A and B 16U: **8/9-11/2024** (Regions should be completed by **8/2**)
- 6.5.3.5. 16U All Star Game and Showcase: **8/17 2-6 PM**
- 6.5.3.6. 2024 SD VFW Baseball Annual Meeting: **8/25 (Madison VFW 10 AM)**

6.5.4. 2025 Tournament Dates

- 6.5.4.1. Class A and B 8U and 12U: **7/11-13/2025**
- 6.5.4.2. Class A and B 10U: **7/18-20/2025**
- 6.5.4.3. Class A and B 14U: **7/25-27/2025** (Regions should be completed by **7/17**)
- 6.5.4.4. Class A and B 16U: **8/8-10/2025** (Regions should be completed by **8/1**)
- 6.5.4.5. 16U All Star Game and Showcase: **8/16 2-6 PM**
- 6.5.4.6. 2025 SD VFW Baseball Annual Meeting: **8/24 (Madison VFW 10 AM)**

6.5.5. 2026 Tournament Dates

- 6.5.5.1. Class A and B 8U and 12U: **7/10-12/2026**
- 6.5.5.2. Class A and B 10U: **7/17-19/2026**
- 6.5.5.3. Class A and B 14U: **7/24-26/2026** (Regions should be completed by **7/16**)
- 6.5.5.4. Class A and B 16U: **8/7-8/2026** (Regions should be completed by **7/31**)
- 6.5.5.5. 16U All Star Game and Showcase: **8/15 2-6 PM**
- 6.5.5.6. 2026 SD VFW Baseball Annual Meeting: **8/23 (Madison VFW 10 AM)**

6.6. VFW Youth Baseball Grant Program Update: 2021 Corsica. The 2022 Grant window opens 1/1/2022 and closes 5/1/2022.

6.7. VFW Youth Baseball Community of the Year Recognition Update: **2020**—Chamberlain; The 2021 recognition will be announced 9/15/2021.

6.8. VFW Youth Baseball Veterans Program Donation Program Update: **2021**—TBD

6.9. 2022 Canaries and VFW Baseball/Softball Camps: tentatively

6.10. Steve Springer's Quality at Bats, MLB Oakland A's Mental Skills Coach

7. For the Good of VFW Youth Baseball

7.1. **2021 SD VFW Baseball 16U Showcase and All Star Game**; NSU Head Coach Dean Berry Class A vs DSU Head Coach Derrion Hardie and Assistant Alec DeMaria Class B. Class B 10 and Class A 4. We had 36 players participate in the Showcase and All Star Game.

7.2. Remarks: 2021-2022 Department of SD Commander, Barb McKean

7.2.1. Paraphrased remarks: Emphasized to get more involved and active with other VFW programs for example Voice of Democracy, Patriot Pen and Art Programs. Desire to continue the growth with our focus on our youth. It's important to continue to improve and innovate. VFW Posts should be sponsoring you. Contact your nearest VFW and try to get them involved. VFW member associations. It's really nice to see VFW on baseball uniforms.

8. Close

8.1. Minutes and updated rules: hopefully posted by 10/1/2021

8.2. Next annual meeting: **8/21/2022 10 AM Madison VFW Post**

8.3. Update Sign-in/Contact list before leaving

Official:

By Order of:

J.D Frisby-Griffin

Danny Frisby-Griffin,
Baseball Chairman
Department of South Dakota
VFW of the United States

Rob Lind

Rob Lind,
Director of VFW Baseball Operations
Department of South Dakota
VFW of the United States