

# **The American Legion Department of Florida**



## **Baseball Manual 2024**

**[floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com](http://floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com)**

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# FOREWORD

This Department of Florida Baseball Manual has been prepared by the Executive Baseball Committee as a form of communication between the Department Baseball Chairman and Vice Chairman, Divisional Commissioners and Vice Commissioners, Team Managers and Coaches who are registered and authorized to participate in the American Legion Baseball Program.

This Manual has specific dates, rules and regulations for the State of Florida and is governed by the Executive Baseball Committee. This manual is in effect throughout the Pre-Season, Regular Season, Divisional Playoffs and State Tournament

The National Tournaments rulebook, specific dates and regulations are in effect once a State Champion is declared by the Department Baseball Chairman. The State Championship Team is eligible to compete in the National Southeast Regional Tournament. The Regional Champions are eligible to compete in the National World Series Tournament.

Failure to operate your team in accordance with the rules and regulations of American Legion Baseball, both State and National, could result in the following action:

- Team could be prohibited from playing American Legion Baseball
- Eligibility of your players could be jeopardized
- Lose players due to rule infractions
- Team could forfeit league or tournament games once the season is underway

The guidelines set forth in this manual and the rules and regulations outlined have been designed to protect your team, your players, and the American Legion Post or organization that sponsors your team.

**THE BASIC OBJECTIVES ARE: TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM, PATRIOTISM, SPORTSMANSHIP, TEAM BUILDING AND GOAL SETTING.**

**1. COMPETITIVE PLAY.**

**2. PROVIDE SAFETY TO ALL PARTICIPANTS.**

**3. DEVELOPMENT OF PLAYERS.**

**American Legion Baseball offers player's a chance to compete in a Divisional Playoff Tournament, earn a Team bid to the Florida State Championship Tournament (where the top 4 North Division Teams will compete with the top 4 South Division Teams for a State Championship.**

**The State Champion will earn an all expense paid invite to the American Legion Southeast Regional Tournament and compete against the top 8 State Champions for a SE Regional Championship.**

**The Southeast Regional Champion will earn an all expense paid invite to compete against the other 8 Regional Champion Teams and the top player recruits and talent from all over the country in the American Legion World Series.**

**If you have any questions about any information in this manual, contact your Divisional Commissioner or Vice Commissioner and or the Department Baseball Chairman Terry Phillips at 904-535-4114 or [baseball@legionmail.org](mailto:baseball@legionmail.org).**

# PAST STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

## National Champions

1978 Hialeah Post 32  
1981 West Tampa Post 248  
1986 Jensen Beach Post 126  
1997 Sanford Post 53



## National Runner-Up

1948 Jacksonville Post 9

## Most State Championships

West Palm Beach Post 12 – 11 wins

## Senior State Champions

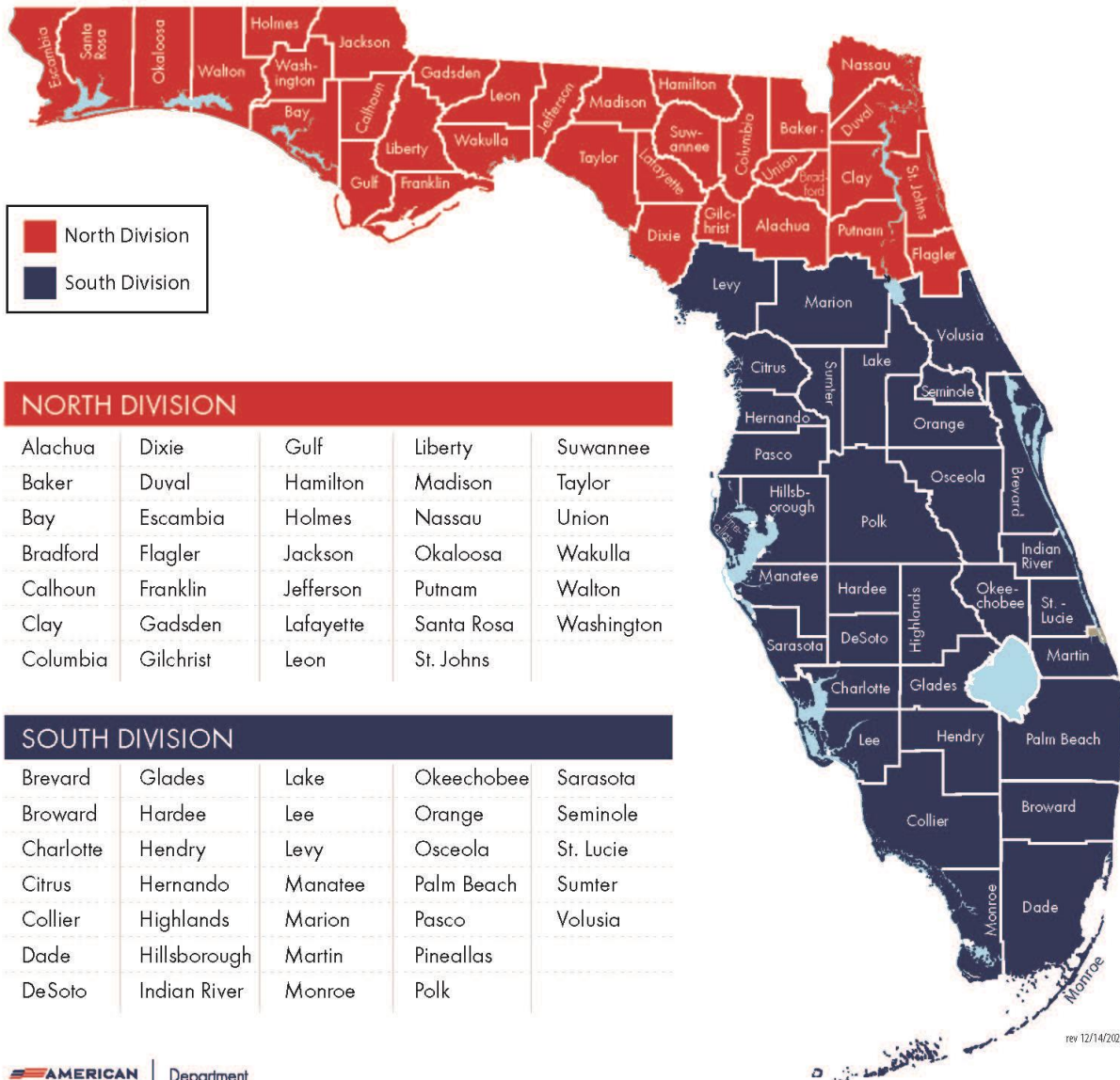
1928 Tampa	1977 West Palm Beach 12
1929 Tampa	1978 Hialeah Post 32
1930 Tampa	1979 Orlando Post 286
1931 Tampa	1980 Hialeah Post 32
1932 West Palm Beach Post 12	1981 West Tampa Post 248
1933 Gainesville Post 16	1982 Deland Post 6
1934 Tampa	1983 West Palm Beach Post 12
1935 West Palm Beach Post 12	1984 West Tampa Post 248
1936 Tampa – Ybor City	1985 Madeira Beach Post 274
1937 Tallahassee Post 13	1986 Jensen Beach Post 126
1938 West Palm Beach Post 12	1987 West Tampa Post 248
1939 Tallahassee Post 13	1988 West Palm Beach Post 12
1940 Jacksonville Post 137	1989 Sarasota Post 30
1941 Lakeland Post 4	1990 Brandon Post 278
1942 N/A	1991 Sarasota Post 30
1943 N/A	1992 Miami Post 346
1944 West Palm Beach Post 12	1993 Miami Post 346
1945 Lakeland Post 4	1994 Miami Post 346
1946 Avon Park Post 69	1995 Coral Gables Post 98
1947 Jacksonville Post 9	1996 Deland Post 6
1948 Jacksonville Post 9	1997 Sanford Post 53
1949 Jacksonville Post 9	1998 Sanford Post 53
1950 West Palm Beach Post 12	1999 Bradenton Post 24
1951 Jacksonville Post 9	2000 Fort Pierce Post 358
1952 Jacksonville Post 9	2001 Sanford Post 53
1953 Jacksonville Post 9	2002 Sanford Post 53
1954 Jacksonville Post 9	2003 Sebastian Post 189
1955 Lakeland Post 4	2004 Bay County Post 375
1956 West Palm Beach Post 12	2005 Sanford Post 53
1957 Miami Pan Am	2006 Deland Post 6
1958 Lakeland Post 4	2007 Coral Springs Post 265
1959 West Palm Beach Post 12	2008 Fort Pierce Post 358
1960 Miami Pan Am	2009 Bradenton Post 24
1961 Miami Pan Am	2010 Boynton Beach 164
1962 Bradenton Post 24	2011 Bradenton Post 24
1963 West Palm Beach Post 12	2012 Fort Pierce Post 358
1964 West Palm Beach Post 12	2013 Jacksonville Post 88
1965 Tallahassee Post 13	2014 Jacksonville Post 88
1966 Miami Post 300	2015 Tallahassee Post 13
1967 Miami Post 300	2016 Tallahassee Post 13
1968 West Tampa Post 248	2017 Tallahassee Post 13
1969 West Tampa Post 248	2018 Tallahassee Post 13
1970 Miami Shores Post 124	2019 Tallahassee Post 13
1971 Tallahassee Post 13	2020 *Season Cancelled* COVID-19
1972 Gainesville Post 16	2021 Tallahassee Post 13
1973 Vero Beach Post 39	2022 Belleview Post 284
1974 Deland Post 6	2023 Belleview Post 284
1975 Deland Post 6	
1976 St. Petersburg Post 14	

## Junior State Champions

1988 Lakeland Post 4  
1989 Bradenton Post 24  
1990 Columbus, Miami  
1991 Boca Raton Post 277  
1992 Sarasota Baseball Club  
1993 Jacksonville Post 283  
1994 Sarasota Baseball Club  
1995 Sarasota Baseball Club  
1996 George Jenkins, Lakeland  
1997 Orlando Post 286  
1998 Apopka Baseball Club  
1999 Tampa Catholic Post 5  
2000 Pensacola Post 33  
2001 North Tampa Post 334  
2002 Lake Brantley Baseball Club  
2003 Dunedin Post 275  
2004 Oviedo Baseball Club  
2005 Oviedo Baseball Club  
2006 Oviedo Baseball Club  
2007 Deland Post 6  
2008 Jupiter Post 271  
2009 N/A  
2010 Deltona Trinity  
2011 Stuart Post 62  
2012 Fort Pierce Post 358  
2013 N/A  
2014 Wellington Post 390  
2015 N/A  
2016 N/A  
2017 Atlantic Beach Post 316  
2018 Tallahassee Post 13  
2019 Tallahassee Post 13  
2020 N/A \*Season Cancelled\* COVID-19  
2021 Boynton Beach Post 164 & Clermont Post 55  
2022 Jacksonville Post 9  
2023 ALBAA Astros



# THE AMERICAN LEGION FLORIDA BASEBALL ORGANIZATION MAP



**AMERICAN LEGION** | Department of Florida

P.O. BOX 547859  
ORLANDO, FL 32854-7859

[www.floridalegion.org](http://www.floridalegion.org)

TOLL FREE (800) 393-3378  
FAX (407) 299-0901

# **BASEBALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

## **Department Baseball Chairman**

**Terry Phillips**

904-535-4114

baseball@legionmail.org

### **Vice Chairman Commissioner**

Paul Jacobs

863-604-9350

pjacobs21@tampabay.rr.com

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman Commissioner**

Jack Buzek

561-758-9299

buzzcoach@aol.com

### **Northern Division Commissioner**

Randy Whisman

904-554-2990

albertwhisman@gmail.com

### **Northern Division Vice Commissioner**

### **South Division Commissioner**

Tom Beck

904-400-7522

tbeck@weichertinsurance.com

### **South Division Vice Commissioner**

Bob Dobkowski

352-400-0103

mr.blindmaster@yahoo.com

### **Baseball IT Support**

Cliff Bard

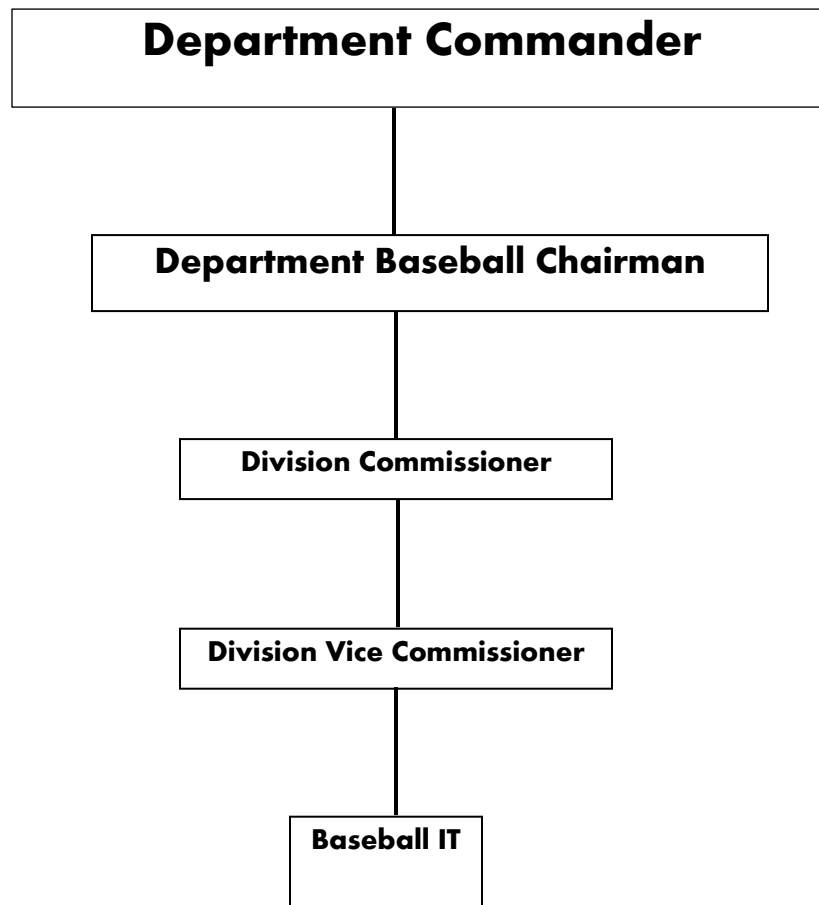
863-608-1853

seebardoe@aol.com

## **Past Department Baseball Chairman**

Andy Burkett   2017-2019   Deceased

# ORGANIZATION FLOW CHART







# BASEBALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## Department Baseball Chairman

The Department Baseball Chair is appointed by the Department Commander and serves as the Head of the Executive Baseball Committee in the governing and operations of the Department Baseball program.

The tenure and time of service as the Department Baseball Chair is ongoing until such time as the Department commander appoints a new Chair, or the member steps down, retires or takes another position.

### Requirements:

- Must be a Legionnaire and an active member in good standing with The American Legion.
- Must pass the background check and abuse awareness training.
- Must have a passion for the game of baseball and a desire to serve the youth and families that participate in the Baseball program.
- Must be willing to attend meetings, travel within the Department and outside the Department for Regional and National meetings and events.
- Must be willing to recruit new Post support, new players, teams, coaches, sponsor donations and to promote the values of Americanism, Patriotism, Sportsmanship and Service to Others.

### Skills:

- The ability to communicate through verbal and written applications.
- The ability to speak and present in front of small and large groups at meetings and events.
- The ability to create, manage and control a workable budget that meets the needs of the Baseball program.
- The ability to complete tasks and to be self-driven in day-to-day requirements.
- The ability to prepare and submit updates quarterly/annually to the Department Commander, Department Finance Committee and membership.

## Past Department Baseball Chairman

Past Department Baseball Chairs will serve as advisors to the current appointed/sitting Department Baseball Chair and will remain on the Baseball Executive Committee as an active member and will maintain a vote on all Baseball matters.

### Requirements:

- Must be an active member in good standing of The American Legion.
- Must attend meetings and events when possible.
- Must be willing to speak on behalf of the Department Baseball program and Baseball Chair when invited or asked to do so.
- Must continue to help grow and promote the Baseball program.



## BASEBALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **Division Commissioner & Vice Division Commissioner**

The Division Commissioner serves on the Executive Baseball Committee under the direction and leadership of the Department Baseball Chairman in the governing and operations of the Department of Florida Baseball Program.

The tenure and time of service as a Division Commissioner/Executive Baseball Committee member is ongoing until such time as the member steps down, retires, takes another position, or is removed by the Department Baseball Chairman for not meeting requirements.

#### **Requirements:**

- Must be an active member in good standing of the American Legion or Sons of the American Legion.
- Must pass the required background check and abuse awareness training.
- Must have a passion for the game of baseball and a desire to serve the youth and families that participate in the Baseball program.
- Must be willing to attend meetings, travel in your Division to recruit new Post support, new players, teams, coaches, sponsor donations, and to promote the values of Americanism, patriotism, sportsmanship and service to others.
- Must verify and certify their Senior teams have played the eight (8) required season games prior to the start of the Post Season Division Playoff Tournaments and are required to report game dates, opponent and final score to the Department Chairman prior to Post Season Play (failure to do so will disqualify team or teams).

#### **Skills:**

- The ability to communicate through verbal and written applications.
- The ability to speak in front of small and large groups at meetings and events.
- The ability to complete tasks and to be self-driven in day-to-day requirements.
- The ability to prepare an Division Plan and submit reports and updates quarterly/annually to the Department Baseball Chairman.

A Vice Division Commissioner may be added by the Department Baseball Chairman to assist the Division Commissioner.

## IMPORTANT DATES

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>January 1 2024 Season</b></p>	<p>Online Registration begins for the 2024 season:  <a href="https://floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com/">https://floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com/</a>            All Managers, Coaches, and Area Commissioners should pre-register their Senior and Junior teams between January 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> to create a contact/phone list of teams and coaches for scheduling games. New teams are going to sign up as they form, find players and funding in April and May before the deadline so Area Commissioners must help assure the new teams get their eight (8) games played to qualify for Area Playoff Tournaments.</p> <p>Go to our webpage <a href="https://floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com/">https://floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com/</a> to register and find Florida Baseball program information, contact lists, and important dates.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> TEAMS MUST HAVE LEGION INSURANCE PRIOR TO ANY LEGION TEAM TRYOUTS, PRACTICE SESSIONS OR GAMES ALONG WITH A COMPLETED AND SIGNED FORM 2 WAIVER ON FILE.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>February 15</b></p>	<p>First day to purchase Legion Baseball Insurance. Go to <a href="https://floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com/">https://floridaamericanlegion.sportngin.com/</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>March 10</b></p>	<p>Executive Committee Meeting – Location TBD</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>March 11</b></p>	<p><b>DEADLINE</b> to request rulebook changes.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>March 29</b></p>	<p><b>DEADLINE</b> to establish player domiciles.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>April 9</b></p>	<p><b>DEADLINE</b> to submit recruiting maps.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>April 13</b></p>	<p><b>DEADLINE</b> to file Plan “A” and Plan “B” rezoning or new zoning with Department.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May 12</b></p>	<p><b>ALL</b> Senior &amp; Junior Teams should be pre-registered (exception for new Legion Teams signing up).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May 21</b></p>	<p><b>DEADLINE</b> to purchase Legion Insurance, pay registration fees, complete background checks and abuse training certification.</p>

	<b><u>NOTE: THE ABUSE TRAINING CERTIFICATION ACCEPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA IS THE PROTECT YOUTH SPORTS CERTIFICATION. THE USA CERTIFICATION WILL NOT BE VALID OR ACCEPTED.</u></b>
<b>June 1</b>	<b>SEASON OPENING DAY – PLAY BALL</b>
<b>June 7-6</b>	Senior Kick Off Tournament – Jacksonville, FL – Rondette Park
<b>June 13-16</b>	Department of Florida Convention – Orlando, FL – Baseball Training Class & Baseball Committee Meeting
<b>June 22</b>	<b>TEAM ROSTERS ARE FROZEN</b>
<b>July 15</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b> for baseball scholarship applications to Department
<b>July 12-14</b>	<b>Division Playoff Tournaments</b> Division with less than two teams will play in the nearest Division Playoff Tournament to determine a State Tournament invitation/spot.
<b>July 17-21</b>	<b>SR State Tournament</b> Clearwater, FL  Baseball Committee Meeting – Clearwater, FL
<b>July 26-28</b>	<b>JR State Tournament</b> Boynton Beach, FL *Alternate Location To Be Determined*
<b>August 7-11</b>	<b>SR Southeast Regional Tournament</b> McCrary Park 138 Southway Rd., Asheboro, NC
<b>August 15-20</b>	<b>World Series</b> Veterans Field at Keeter Stadium 230 East Dixon Boulevard, Shelby, NC 28152 Ph: 704-466-3103

## **IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

The National Americanism/Baseball Board meet annually in September at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, IN after the American Legion World Series to review the season and plan for the upcoming season. Rule changes, new rule additions or rule updates are submitted for review, discussions, and vote by all 50 Department Baseball Chairmen, a majority vote is needed for each proposed change, addition or update to be adopted and implemented. National Baseball Rules are reviewed every two years for additions, changes, and updates.

The following are new or updated rule changes from National Headquarters that are important for Department Baseball Chairman, Divisional Commissioners and Vice Commissioners, Managers, and Coaches to know prior to the upcoming season.

**NATIONAL SOUTHEAST REGIONAL PLAY & WORLD SERIES PLAY** – the official required patch for the left sleeve or left chest on the uniforms is the cross-bat logo not the home plate logo. Details are found on the National website [legion.org/baseball](http://legion.org/baseball) under resources/policies/branding rules.

## IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES FROM DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA

**Florida Rule Changes:** The approved and correct required patch for the uniform is the cross-bat logo not the Homeplate logo (details are on the National site [legion.org/baseball](http://legion.org/baseball) in the resources/policies/branding section. If you have new uniform shirts from last season with the Homeplate logo you can wear those uniform shirts this season during season, playoffs and state tournament play (state champions will be sent from National a cross-bat patch to cover the Homeplate logo). If you are getting new uniform shirts or you are a new team make sure the cross-bat logo is used.

In order to allow more players wanting to play Legion Baseball and avoid shutting out anyone desiring to be on a team, as we have discussed over the last season, we will now change the many areas on Florida to a North and South Division format. There will be a Northern Commissioner and Vice Commissioner and a South Commissioner and Vice Commissioner that will operate their divisions under the supervision and guidance of the Department Chairman.

In our battle against travel ball and show case tournaments, we have to adjust how we operate our program in Florida. We are seeing and being told by both players and parents that they will not play for some HS Coaches, Travel Coaches or Teams due to their attitudes, language habits and moral standards. We as a league and organization must not force a player or parent to play for someone they do not want to play for or they will not choose to play Legion Baseball.

In these cases, we will waive players to play on another Legion team of their choice.

The steps required for a form 76 transfer / waiver:

1. Player, Parent or Coach must inform the Divisional Commissioner with a valid reason for the request prior to the roster approval.
2. The Divisional Commissioner will inform all parties of the request.
3. The Divisional Commissioner will complete the form 76 and submit the signed form to the Department Baseball Chairman for final approval (in the event a Coach will not honor the Request) the Department Baseball Chairman will make the final decision on the transfer / Waiver.

## PITCH COUNT

The following are new or updated rules from National Headquarters that are important for Chairman to know prior to the 2023 American Legion Baseball Rule Book being sent out.

### **Pitch Count.**

For Senior teams, the maximum number of pitches thrown in a day for age 17+ is **105**. This can be in a single game or under the new rule a combination of two games in a day. If a pitcher throws in a second game on the same day, the pitch count from the first game is the beginning number of pitches until the daily limit of **105** has been reached. This will also count as two appearances in the three-day rule.

For Junior teams, the maximum number of pitches is determined by the pitcher's age range.

Age 13-17: The maximum number of pitches thrown in a day is **105**. This can be in a single game or under the new rule a combination of two games in a day. If a pitcher throws in a second game on the same day, the pitch count from the first game is the beginning number of pitches until the daily limit of **105** has been reached. This will also count as two appearances in the three-day rule.

The required rest period for 19U Senior, 17U Junior, and 15U Middle School pitchers after daily pitches thrown is:

- 1 to 30 pitches – no rest period
- 31 to 45 pitches – one day rest
- 46 to 60 pitches – two days rest
- 61 to 80 pitches – three days rest
- 81 to 105 pitches – four days rest

## **ATTENTION ALL COACHES – MANAGERS - VOLUNTEERS**

It is mandatory that you complete and certify in the Abuse Awareness course to qualify and participate in The American Legion Baseball program. Failure to do so will disqualify a Coach, Manager or Volunteer from the team.

### **Abuse Awareness Course**

In compliance with National Resolution 32, The Department of Florida utilizes Protect Youth Sports as the exclusive provider for the free sexual abuse awareness training for all coaches, managers, and volunteers over the age of 18 working with American Legion Baseball teams. Applicants will receive an email invite from [message@veritysecure.com](mailto:message@veritysecure.com) with the subject line of “Child Safety Training” with the link to the Protect Youth Sports (PYS) training upon submission of their background check application. Since it is attached to an individual’s background check, the email is personalized and should come directly to their inbox.

The email contains a link where you will be able to access the video training, which is a little over 30 minutes long and free. Once it’s done, you’ll do the 25-question quiz by clicking the button at the end of the last video. The training does not need to be completed immediately upon receiving the email but must be done prior to the opening of the baseball season on June 1st. Any individual found to have not completed or passed the background check AND sexual abuse awareness training will be prohibited from serving as a coach, manager, and/or volunteer for American Legion Baseball.

As stated, Protect Youth Sports is the exclusive provider and therefore the training must be done through them. This also ensures that we can track both the background checks and training completion before games start. **Training conducted via USA Baseball Pure Baseball will not be accepted.**

The course is free.

The American Legion Baseball program mandates that each coach, manager and/or volunteer renew their abuse awareness training every year. The certificate of completion will need to be presented upon request at any Regular Season game, Area Tournament, Post Season State Tournament, National Regional Tournament and National World Series Tournament.

**NOTE:** The Department of Florida also strongly recommends Pitch Smart Certification for all Head Coaches and Pitching Coaches. See Florida Rule XIII on page 26 for full details.



# 2024 SENIOR DEPARTMENT STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

## Location

Madeira Beach  
Jack Russell Memorial Stadium  
800 Phillies Dr.  
Clearwater, FL 33755

### Tournament Contact:

Southern Commissioner Tom Beck  
Ph: 908-400-7522  
E-mail: tbeck@weichertinsurance.com

## Dates

State Tournament: Wednesday, July 17 – Sunday, July 21

## Hotel Accommodations

**Hotel:** Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park  
950 Lake Carillon Dr.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33716  
727-540-0050

## Senior Team Housing

Department will provide up to 7 rooms that will sleep 4 players for each participating team that is required to travel over 60 miles from the tournament site. Any additional rooms needed by the participating teams must be paid by the participating team.

- If a team reports to the State Tournament with a limited roster, a lesser number of rooms may be provided
- Each team that requires housing must place a security deposit of \$200.00 with the Department Baseball Chairman upon arrival. This deposit will be returned if no damage occurs at the lodging site.
- Eliminated teams must return to the hotel and check out all team rooms prior to the cut off time to avoid additional charges unless your team had to play a late game past 3:00 PM.

## State Tournament Play

No Department will be permitted to enter a team in a National Tournament unless an official Department Tournament was held, with two or more regularly certified teams participating. *At least 8 teams must be officially certified in regular season play for a Department to enter a team in a Regional or National World Series Tournament.* These 8 teams will be determined through the Divisional Tournaments.



# SENIOR STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

**\*\*Teams are still to be determined\*\***



## **Wednesday, July 17**

Team Check In & Banquet

## **Thursday, July 18**

Game 1 – Team 1	vs	Team 2
Game 2 – Team 3	vs	Team 4
Game 3 – Team 5	vs	Team 6
Game 4 – Team 7	vs	Team 8
Game 5 – Loser Game 1	vs	Loser Game 2
Game 6 – Loser Game 3	vs	Loser Game 4

## **Friday, July 19**

Game 7 – Winner Game 1	vs	Winner Game 2
Game 8 – Winner Game 3	vs	Winner Game 4
Game 9 – Winner Game 5	vs	Loser Game 8
Game 10 – Winner Game 6	vs	Loser Game 7

## **Saturday, July 20**

Game 11 – Winner Game 7	vs	Winner Game 8
Game 12 – Winner Game 9	vs	Winner Game 10
Game 13 – Winner Game 12	vs	Loser Game 11

## **Sunday, July 21**

Game 14 – Winner Game 11	vs	Winner Game 13
Game 15 – If Needed		

Game 15 will be needed if the Winner of Game 11 loses Game 12 or the Winner of Game 13 wins Game 14 – One hour after Game 14.

Pairing for Game 12 and 13 will not match previous opponents against each other unless necessary (Tournament Director has further instructions).

If three teams remain after Game 13, Winner Game 11 automatically draws the bye for Game 14.

**ATTENTION:** In the event of a rain out situation, either in the Championship game, partial or total tournament, the Department Baseball Chairman will declare a Department State Champion to advance to the Southeast Regional Tournament to represent the Department of Florida.

# **2024 JUNIOR DEPARTMENT STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

## **Location**

Boynton Beach  
Santalucis Complex  
6750 Lawrence Rd.  
Lantana, FL 33462

### **Tournament Contact:**

Jack Buzek  
Ph: 561-758-9299  
E-mail: buzzcoach@aol.com

## **Dates**

State Tournament: Friday, July 26 – Sunday, July 28

## **Hotel Accommodations**

**Hotel:** Hampton Inn & Suites  
1425 Gateway Blvd.  
Boynton Beach, FL 33426  
Phone (561) 680-5052

## **Junior Team Housing**

Each Junior team will be responsible for their meals and housing. Each Junior team requiring housing (60 miles or more from the tournament site) will receive \$500.00 from the Department Baseball Executive Committee to help defray expenses. An additional \$50.00 will be paid for each game played in excess of 2 (This payment will only be paid after the Committee has received a “no damage” report from the hotel). Eliminated teams must return to the hotel and check out all team rooms prior to the cut off time to avoid additional charges unless your team had to play a late game past 3:00 PM



# JUNIOR STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

**\*\*Teams are still to be determined\*\***



Team Check in & Banquet

## **Friday, July 26**

Game 1 – Team 1	vs	Team 2
Game 2 – Team 3	vs	Team 4
Game 3 – Team 5	vs	Team 6
Game 4 – Team 7	vs	Team 8
Game 5 – Loser Game 1	vs	Loser Game 2
Game 6 – Loser Game 3	vs	Loser Game 4

## **Saturday, July 27**

Game 7 – Winner Game 1	vs	Winner Game 2
Game 8 – Winner Game 3	vs	Winner Game 4
Game 9 – Loser Game 8	vs	Winner Game 5
Game 10 – Winner Game 6	vs	Loser Game 7

## **Sunday, July 28**

Game 11 – Winner Game 7	vs	Winner Game 8
Game 12 – Winner Game 9	vs	Winner Game 10
Game 13 – Loser Game 11	vs	Winner Game 12
Game 14 – Winner Game 11	vs	Winner Game 13

Game 15 will be needed if the Winner of Game 11 loses Game 12 or the Winner of Game 13 wins Game 14 – One hour after Game 14.

If three teams remain after Game 13, Winner Game 11 automatically draws the bye for Game 14.

**The Junior State Tournament must have a minimum of four teams participating in the State Tournament, less than four teams will not warrant a Junior State Tournament. The Junior State Tournament game schedule will be adjusted accordingly by the number of teams participating (minimum 4 teams, maximum 8 teams).**

# FLORIDA SPECIFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS

## Article I – Name & Purpose

### Section 1.

The official name of this organization shall be "The American Legion Baseball Association of the Department of Florida," here in after referred to as the "Association."

### Section 2.

The purpose of the Association:

- i. To provide a baseball program through which all members of the Association may participate under a common set of rules, to the mutual benefit of all, and
- ii. To provide concrete and practical lessons of citizenship and sportsmanship by playing the American game of baseball, and
- iii. To provide for the safety of the participants.

### Section 3.

Department rules contained here-in, are supplementary to, and not intended to conflict with the official National American Legion baseball rules. The purpose of these rules is to protect and stimulate the competition of American Legion baseball within the state of Florida.

## Article II – Association Management

### Section 1.

American Legion Baseball competition shall be played under the rules set forth and adopted by the National Americanism Commission and the Department of Florida Executive Baseball Committee.

### Section 2.

The Association shall be governed by the Department of Florida American Legion Executive Baseball Committee, here-in after referred to as the "Committee."

### Section 3.

The Committee shall pass upon the eligibility of players and teams and perform all necessary functions for the conduct of the American Legion Baseball program in the State of Florida as promulgated by the National Americanism Commission and the Department of Florida American Legion Executive Baseball Committee.

### Section 4.

The Department Executive Baseball Committee shall be comprised of Department Baseball Chairman, Department Past Baseball Chairmen, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Baseball Chairman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Baseball Chairman, North Division Commissioner, South Division Commissioner, Baseball IT Support Commissioner, North Division Vice Commissioner (if), and South Division Vice Commissioner (if).

**NOTE:** The Department Baseball Chairman may approve Divisional Vice Commissioners to assist the Divisional Commissioners in baseball operations, supervision and growth of the baseball program.

### **Article III – Insurance**

Every American Legion Baseball team must purchase both group liability and accident insurance from The American Legion's agent of record. Coverage must be purchased NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT MAY 21st. **Any team who fails to purchase team insurance by June 1 from the agent of record shall be disqualified from American Legion baseball play.**

**NOTE:** It is recommended that you purchase year-round insurance to cover any after season play time or fall ball.

### **Article IV – Membership**

#### **Section 1.**

All teams must have an approved recruiting division that meets Departmental guidelines for team membership.

#### **Section 2.**

All senior teams must have a "base school" or an approved recruiting "division".

#### **Section 3.**

All teams must submit a team registration form showing its base school and/or recruiting division, which shall be approved by the Division Commissioner and certified by the Department Baseball Chairman.

#### **Section 4.**

Teams may register as a Senior or Junior team according to guidelines established by the Department Baseball Executive Committee.

### **Article V – Registration & Certification**

#### **Section 1.**

Each team is encouraged to have an American Legion Post as a sponsor or an approved outside sponsorship.

#### **Section 2.**

Each team must register online, regardless of class, and pay an entry fee as follows:

- i. \$125.00 entry fee to National Headquarters for both Senior and Junior Teams
- ii. \$150.00 entry fee to Department of Florida for both Senior and Junior Teams

#### **Section 3.**

Each registered team must submit their completed team book with all required form 2's, photo ID, official team roster and proof of insurance prior to the Divisional Qualifying Playoff Tournament. Failure to do so will disqualify your team from all post season play. The Divisional Commissioner will verify all information for full compliance.

## **ALL ROSTERS ARE FROZEN ON JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup>.**

**ALL PLAYERS** must play in the Divisional Playoff Tournaments to be eligible to play in the State Tournament, Regional Tournament, and World Series Tournament.

By Rule: Once the STATE TOURNAMENT begins play, no player shall participate in any other tournament or showcase under any circumstances, by doing so the player will be disqualified from post season play.

EACH TEAM THAT ADVANCES TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT, PLAYERS MUST PRESENT AT THE TEAM CHECK-IN A LEGION PLAYER ID CARD OR A VALID DRIVERS LICENSE OR A VALID STATE ISSUED ID CARD (JUNIOR PLAYERS THAT DO NOT HAVE THE BEFORE MENTIONED ID'S MUST SUBMIT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THEIR BIRTH CERTIFICATE) FOR VERIFICATION TO THE EXECUTIVE BASEBALL COMMITTEE AT THE TEAMS APPOINTED CHECK-IN TIME.

### **Article VI – Background Checks**

All Coaches and Coaching Staff, Divisional Commissioner and Department Baseball Chairman and any others who have contact with the players, on a one-on-one basis, will have a yearly background check through Department Headquarters. Go to:

<https://opportunities.averity.com/ALFlorida> to submit your background check today!

For Fall Ball under your Legion Insurance, Division Commissioners will need to email [baseball@legionmail.org](mailto:baseball@legionmail.org) a list of names, contact information, and team affiliation of any new Coach, Assistant Coach, or Volunteer that did not complete the background check and abuse training during the summer season prior to any activity or participation with your teams and players. We will send them the directions on how to complete the requirements.

Teams will need to provide a list of those needing background checks and abuse training along with a \$25.00 non-refundable fee for each background check and abuse training submitted. Department of Florida will run those individuals and confirm with the Area Commissioner if the results are approved or denied.

Checks need to be made out to the Department of Florida, with “Fall Baseball” in the memo line and mailed to:

The Department of Florida  
ATTN: Programs Director  
1912A Lee Rd.  
Orlando, FL 32810

**Failure to pass the background check and complete the abuse training will disqualify any individual from participating in any level of The American Legion Baseball Program.**

### **Article VII – Forfeiture**

Teams not completing the required minimum eight verifiable American Legion sanctioned games will be suspended from post season Area Playoff and State Tournament play.

**NOTE:** Game Changer (GC) will be the official score keeper for Florida American Legion Baseball. ALL registered and approved teams will be invited to join and enter your team information.

It is required that Coaches must submit the game date, Legion opponent, and final score (win or lose) to the Division Commissioner who will certify the official Legion game. Area Commissioners will communicate the game results to the Department Baseball Chairman.

## **Article VIII – Protesting Games**

### **Section 1.**

A regular Season Game that is protested by a Head Coach, that Coach will notify the umpire in chief or plate umpire at once the reason of the protest. The umpire will notify the opposing Head Coach.

**NOTE:** AT ANY TIME IN ANY GAME WHEN AN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS IS ACTIVELY COACHING A TEAM FROM THE DUGOUT OR ON THE FIELD, THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED A COACH FOR THAT GAME OR GAMES.

### **Section 2.**

An official protest must be filed in writing by the Head Coach within 24 hours after completion of the game to the Division Commissioner who must notify the Department Baseball Chairman. **A filing fee of \$100.00 shall accompany the protest.** If the protest is allowed, the fee is returned. If not allowed, the fee is put in the Baseball Committee's General Fund. If the fee does not accompany the protest, no action will be taken.

### **Section 3.**

Protests on judgment calls will not be considered.

### **Section 4.**

**Step 1:** All requests for interpretation or appeal of American Legion Baseball rules must be emailed to the Division Commissioner or Department Baseball Chairman.

**Step 2:** If there can be no resolution at the Division Commissioner level, the request for interpretation or appeal may be forwarded to the Executive Baseball Committee and Department Baseball Chairman.

**NOTE:** The Florida Department Baseball Chairman will make the final decision on all appeals.

**NOTE:** Should any coach, player, or manager with American Legion Baseball, appeal directly to the National Americanism Commission and forego steps 1 & 2 of the appeal procedure - this shall be considered a violation of this rule and the person or parties protest will be denied and forfeit their filing fee.

## **Article IX – Playing Regulations**

### **Patches.**

Legion Baseball patches must be on the left arm of the jersey prior to the start of the regular season. Coaches wearing jackets must have a Legion Baseball patch on the left sleeve or left chest. There



are no exceptions for players or coaches not wearing the patch. Failure to have Legion Baseball patches as required will result in removal from the game.

**NOTE:** Go to the [floridamericanlegion.sportngin.com](http://floridamericanlegion.sportngin.com) site, click on the resources tab for information on how to use the logo, allowed colors and size of the logo.

The required Baseball Logo can be screened, sublimated or embroidered on jerseys, jackets, hats or shirts. You must submit a request for a limited use of the American Legion Baseball Logo to the Department of Florida. You can contact your Department Baseball Chairman or Department Programs Director for Information.

Patches are available from National Flag & Emblem Sales at <https://emblem.legion.org/> or if you desire to have the patch screened or sublimated on a uniform shirt or jacket, you must submit a Request for a Limited Use of The American Legion And/Or Emblem form to the Department of Florida. You can contact your Department Baseball Chairman or Programs Director for information.

### **Coaching Boxes.**

Players and coaches who are listed on the team roster are permitted on the coaching lines, in the dugouts, and on the field. During regular season play and tournaments, Coaches are permitted to wear coaches Shorts that match the team uniforms, however during the State and National Tournaments shorts are not permitted and Coaches must wear Team Baseball pants. Base coaches are required to wear coaches' helmets, no exceptions. Failure to do so will result in removal from the game.

### **Games per day.**

Teams are not required to play more than two 7-inning games during league, state, or regional tournaments. Playing days can begin at 8:00 AM, local time. **NOTE:** Any game started on one day and carried over to the next day - player and game records will be credited to the day the game started.

**NOTE:** In case of weather delays during the Department Area Playoff's or Department State Tournament play, teams may play a third game in a day provided both Head Coaches and Teams are in agreement and Pitch Count Rules are followed.

### **Time Limit Rule.**

All games will play seven (7) innings with an official time limit of two hours (2:00) for both Junior and Senior games. Games are played until the innings are complete or the time limit has expired or the run rule is applied, whichever comes first.

**EXCEPTION:** Area Championship Tournaments and the State Tournament must have a winner. There are no time limits on Semifinal and Final games as no ties will be allowed.

### **10 or 15 Run Rule.**

For all games during Regular Season play, Area Playoffs, and State Tournament play the 10 after 5 innings run rule and the 15 after 4 innings run rule will apply.

### **Jewelry.**

The Department Baseball Committee discourages the wearing of any jewelry such as earrings, necklaces, and bracelets that may cause an injury.

### **Speed-Up Rule.**

The "speed-up rule" can be utilized in Senior and Junior game play by a non-participating player if there is one available or the last out, to run for the catcher or a pitcher with two outs as soon as he reaches base. **The speed-up rule is optional.** Speed-up Rule **can be** used in the State Tournament play.

### **Dual Participation.**

American Legion Baseball players or teams may participate in other amateur baseball programs provided that dual participation will not in any way interfere with a player's responsibility to American Legion Baseball.

- i. During the regular season, a coach must determine if he will permit any of his players to dual participate in another baseball program. Coach must submit a completed Form 6 to the Divisional Commissioner to be forwarded to the Department Baseball Chairman.
- ii. If any player participates in another baseball program's qualifying tournaments, tryout camps, area games, showcases or any other baseball programs that have conflicting dates with the American Legion State Tournament, he or she will be ruled ineligible to participate in the American Legion Championship Tournaments at any level.

**NOTE:** Once the Legion State Tournament Play begins, no player will be authorized to play in any outside tournaments, tryouts or showcase events. Should a player or players choose to do so, they must notify the Coach and the player or players will not be eligible to participate in the State Tournament.

### **Dual Roster.**

Any JUNIOR (17u) player or players listed on any approved Official Jr. Team Roster is eligible to join any Sr. Team Roster without restriction prior to the Roster Freeze Deadline June 22.

### **Player's Domicile.**

***In addition to National's rule:*** The State of Florida is an "open" enrollment school system which effects players and parents wanting to play in American Legion Baseball Program. In open enrollment situations, any player or parent wanting to play on a different team, these steps must be followed:

1. The Coach must notify the Coach of the other team of the transfer.
2. A release/transfer form 76 must be completed and signed, then forwarded to the Divisional Commissioner and Department Baseball Chairman for final approval.

**NOTE:** In the event a Coach is unwilling to grant the release/transfer form 76, the Department Baseball Chairman will make the final decision of approval or non-approval based on the reason for the request by the player or parent.

### **Professional Baseball Contract.**

***In addition to National's rule:*** It is important that teams select and register players that will complete their obligation to the American Legion Team. Any player who signs a professional contract on or after July 1st **cannot** be replaced on the National Form #1. Professional teams may sign a player at any time.

### **Proof of Age.**

***In addition to National's rule:*** Certified copies of a Legion Baseball Player Card, Florida Driver's License, or Florida Identification Card must accompany the Form 1 on or prior to June 1. The originals must accompany the winning team throughout championship play. ***Our Department can provide Legion Baseball Player Cards for you to use for a fee of \$5.00 each. Area Commissioners will be responsible for relaying the information needed on the cards to the Department of Florida once the player's birth certificate and ID has been verified. Acceptable forms if ID's are a valid State issued photo Driver's License, a valid State issued photo ID Card, or a Certified Birth Certificate.***

### **Team Rosters.**

Teams must submit a color team photo listing their players' names and jersey numbers. This photo will be used to verify that your team rosters, a maximum of 18 players, have not been adjusted.

### **Official Scores.**

We have implemented our OFFICIAL FLORIDA LEGION GAME CHANGED, ALL LEGION TEAMS must register on the Florida American Legion Baseball app. Team Managers or Coach must go to the gc.com, then to Florida American Legion Baseball and request to join. Teams will then enter their team information.

NOTE: Teams must use this Official Scoring to verify and certify their teams have met the required eight game requirements to participate in Post Season Divisional Playoffs. Failure to do so will eliminate your team from Post Season Play.

### **Article X – Player Recruiting Plan “A” – Rule 3**

***In addition to National's rule:*** All zones in Florida are subject to be reviewed each year by the Department Baseball Committee. ALL ZONES MUST BE LIMITED TO A SPECIFIC BOUNDARY.

**Current Cities Under this zoning: Jacksonville**

### **Article XI – Player Recruiting Plan “B” – Rule 4**

***In addition to National's rule:*** Florida being an “Open” enrollment state, Florida Teams must declare a base school. Teams are built by using surrounding schools and student enrollment numbers. School student enrollment numbers are for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, 9<sup>th</sup> grade does not count in total school enrollment. The maximum allowed total enrollment number per team is 7500 students. If a player has graduated and is still age eligible, you must use his high school enrollment number.

Florida is divided into North Division and South Division and are subject to reviewed each year by the Executive Baseball Committee.

**Current Cities Under this zoning: All other cities not listed under Plan “A” Zoning**

### **Article XII – Sportsmanship & Conduct – Rule 7**

**Approved Ruling** - When applying the suspension rule, penalties shall be served for the team's next regularly scheduled contest(s). If a previously scheduled game has been postponed or halted, that

make-up game against the originally scheduled opponent shall count as a regularly scheduled contest.

1. **Physical Abuse** - Any physical abuse of a game official, coach, or another player, including attempting to strike with the arms, hands, legs, feet or equipment in a combative manner.
2. **Verbal Abuse** – forceful or hostile criticism, insults, profanity, or threat of violence of a game official, coach, or another player.
3. Any threat of physical intimidation or harm to include pushing, shoving, kicking, throwing at or attempting to make physical contact.

#### **PENALTY for 1 & 2.**

If a player, coach, or team representative is ejected from a contest because of physically or verbally abusing an official, coach, or another player, the following shall be enforced:

- i. For the first offense by an individual, ejection plus suspension from the team's next contest.
- ii. For a second offense by an individual in the same season, ejection, and suspension for the remainder of the season, including post season competition.
- iii. Procedures for enforcing penalties are as follows:
  - a. After an ejection and suspension, the offending individual must leave the field and dugout area immediately and is not allowed to communicate with team members or the umpires.
  - b. Suspended personnel shall not be in uniform, allowed in any team area or perform any team duty while serving their suspensions.
  - c. It is the responsibility of the team's head coach and/or team manager to administer and enforce the suspension penalty. If a suspended player or coach is found to have participated in a game during the prescribed suspension, the game will be forfeited by the offending team.
  - d. If the penalty occurs during the team's last game of the season, a one-game penalty will be assessed at the beginning of the next season.
- iv. Any player or coach ejected by an umpire during the regular season must sit out the following game. At the State Tournament, he must be reinstated by the Department Executive Baseball Committee after sitting out a minimum of one game.

**NOTE:** Team managers, team coaches, and game umpires are required to notify the Department Baseball Chairman on all ejections from a game with the player's name and jersey number, or coach's name if ejected.

#### **Article XIII – Pitch Smart Training And Certification**

The Department of Florida American Legion Baseball Executive Committee strongly recommends that all Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Pitching Coaches, Pitchers and Parents of Players that pitch to take this free and very important safety course.

This information is for the Safety and Arm Health for all players that pitch and will help prevent injuries to the throwing arm.

USA Baseball and MLB have teamed up to help players reduce arm injuries by providing a comprehensive resource for safe pitching practices. Baseball is a safe game to play for all ages, but research has shown that pitching too much and too often – particularly at a young age – can and will increase the pitcher’s risk of injury. Pitch Smart is a series of practical age-appropriate guidelines to help parents, players, and coaches avoid overuse injuries and foster long, healthy careers for youth pitchers.

The Pitch Smart course can be taken at no cost and found at USA Baseball website <https://usabdevelops.com/> go to the Education section and select Course catalog. The introduction to Pitch Smart course can be found after clicking View Courses.

# JUNIOR TEAM REGULATIONS

Junior teams will play under the same Rules and Regulations as the Senior teams with these exceptions:

## **LEAGUE PLAY:**

- i. Junior teams are not restricted to enrollment or domicile requirements.
- ii. Coaches can choose to use free substitutions in and out without changing the batting order. Pitchers cannot return to the mound in the same game.
- iii. Coaches may choose to bat the whole bench. All players must be listed on the line up card and batting order.
- iv. Coaches may use a DH or two EH's if not batting the bench.

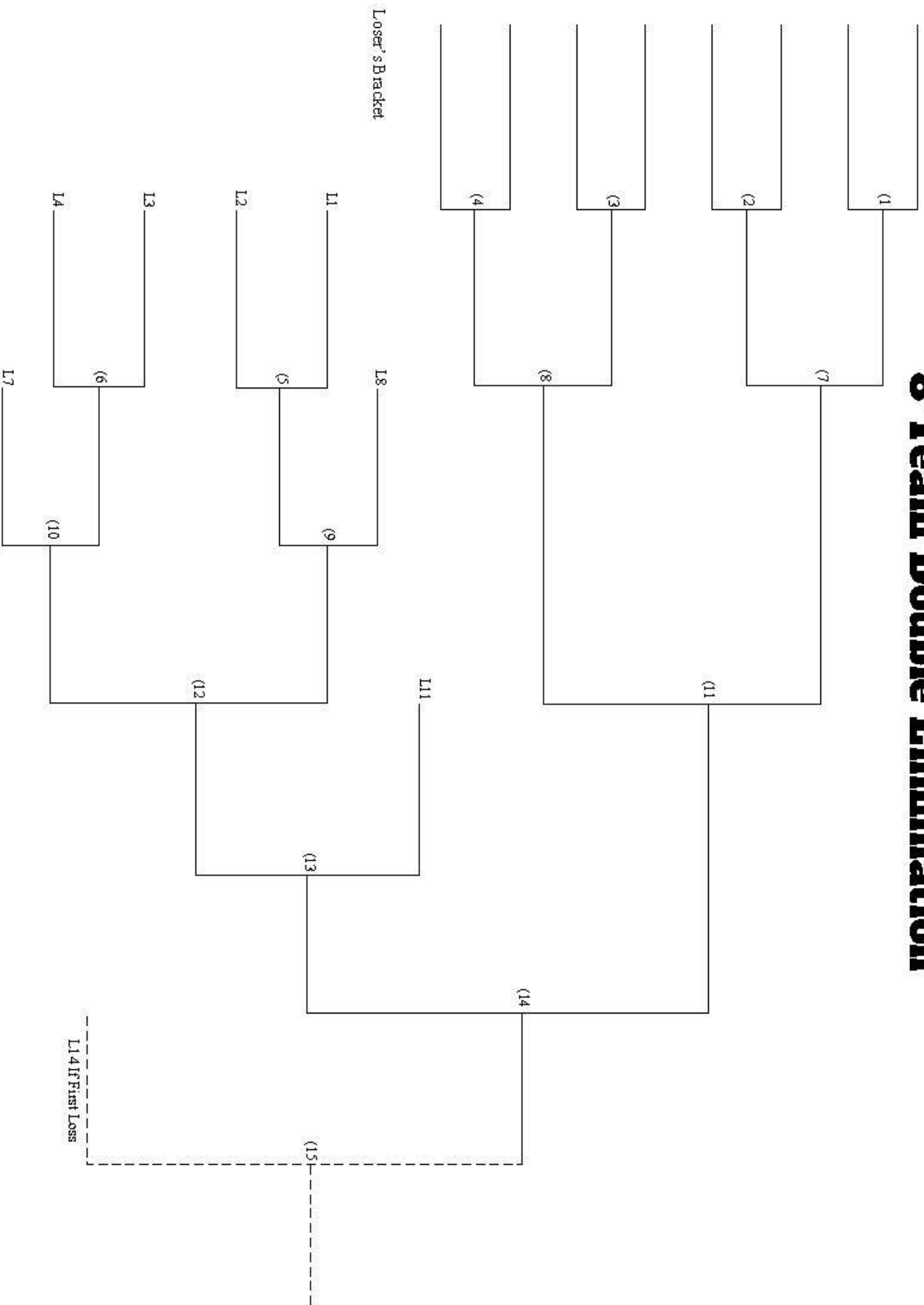
## **DIVISION, STATE, AND REGIONAL TOURNAMENT PLAY:**

- i. Junior Teams will play under the Straight nine rule.
- ii. You may use a DH for your pitcher spot on the line up card and you must list your pitcher in 10th spot on the line up card as a PO.
- iii. No courtesy runners or free in and outs.
- iv. The Speed Up Rule may be used in Division Playoff and State Tournament play if the tournament director chooses to do so.
- v. No Speed Up Rule allowed in Regional Tournament Play.

Winner's Bracket

# AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

## 8 Team Double Elimination







# TEAM DAILY PITCH COUNT LOG

Team Name: _____			
Game Day: Date	Pitcher's Name & Number	# of Pitches	Required # of Rest Days

Each Team Coach Or Manager Must Maintain And Keep This Information In Their Team Book At All Times For Verification On Request By League Officials, Opposing Coaches, Or Umpires.

Coach Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



**American Legion Pitch Count**

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