

THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL
RULES AND REGULATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE 2024

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES 2024

On-Line team registration begins each JANUARY 1st with a deadline of FEBRUARY 15th for all teams to register. Send requests for deadline waiver to Chairman.

All teams have to pay their fees and purchase their insurance on-line by MAY 15, 2024 and also have their Gamechanger account name sent to the Chairman.

All coaches and staff must complete their background checks and Pure Baseball Adult Awareness training before May 15th of each year. The Chairman has to submit all approved teams by this date. Other staff and coaches can be added after this date.

Teams intending to give a player a release must do so prior to JUNE 21, 2024.

Players wishing to cross the State Line must have written permission from the Chairman prior to JUNE 22, 2024. NATIONAL FORMS ALB#76 & 77 must be filled out in their entirety.

The deadline for team entry into the Maine American Legion Baseball Program for the 2025 season is December 1, 2024 unless approval of a later date is granted by Baseball Chairman.

THE NATIONAL FORM #2 complete with a proper original birth certificate for each new first year player (Prep, Junior and Senior program), must be in the hands of the Director for the senior program and the Director for the junior and prep program (if there are no appointed Directors, all documents go to the Chairman) prior to the first Regular Season Game or not later than JUNE 22nd 2024, whichever occurs the earliest. The Maine deadline for you to have your roster completed online is JUNE 22nd 2024. NO EXCEPTIONS PER NATIONAL RULE. The national deadline for our Chairman to approve and submit all Maine legion teams is JUNE 30th, 2024.

TEAM REGISTRATION AGREEMENT

1. Every Post, private booster, or community team that forms a Legion Baseball Team shall be required to register their team on-line, enter all their coaches on-line so they can be put through background check procedures and awareness tests, pay their fees and buy their insurance, (all on-line) before they can participate in the Department of Maine American Legion Baseball Program.
2. By completing their team registration agreement on-line, a Post agrees that they will abide by, and comply with, the Rules in place and established by the American Legion.
3. The Department Baseball Chairman will have the authority, with the right of appeal to the Department Baseball Committee, to suspend a registered team for just cause. A Team may not participate further in the Department of Maine American Legion Baseball program when their registration agreement is suspended. Upon appeal to the Department Baseball Committee a simple

majority vote of the Baseball Committee is required to suspend or reinstate their registration agreement.

4. Noncompliance of the rules in place, any act that can be classified as un-sportsmanlike, questionable behavior, lack of proper leadership or a situation deemed detrimental to the purpose of American Legion Baseball will be just cause for the suspension of that teams registration agreement.

5. The Department Baseball Committee shall have the authority to impose fines and or require reimbursement of funds for damages incurred by a Maine American Legion Baseball team. Such fines and/or reimbursements must be made prior to the reinstatement of that registration agreement.

TEAM ENTRY AND CERTIFICATION

1. Deadline for team entry into Maine American Legion Baseball program is no later than December 1st of the previous year unless permission has been granted by the Chairman. REQUESTS TO CHANGE BASE SCHOOL for the 2024 season will be no later than February 15, 2024.

2. It is each team's responsibility to see that the National FORM #1 has been filled out on-line. It is MANDATORY that the hard copy FORM #2's have been filled out for each player trying out for your team prior to or at the first team meeting or try-out. A COPY of the FORM 2 for each player that makes your team must be in the hands of the District Director prior to the first District game or not later than June 22, 2024, whichever occurs first. (If a player is dual-rostered, each team must have a FORM #2 in its possession for that player and also turn in to the proper Director (or Chairman) for both the Senior and Junior team that player is playing for).

A copy of each teams full season schedule must also be submitted to the director along with the Form #2. REMEMBER, once your Form 1 (Roster) has been filled out and submitted online and it is approved and forwarded by your Chairman or director, it cannot be changed. It becomes an official document once it is forwarded to the National Legion office.

Important: Each team must keep its original copy of a players Form 2 during the whole season and have it available every game during the full season. A copy of the Form 2 must be given to the Chairman for all teams and all levels. This also follows suit with a Form 76, 77 or form 6 if applicable.

a. If a team does not comply with this rule prior to their first Regular Season Game, the penalty will be a forfeit and the game may not be played.

b. If both teams do not comply with this rule, the Chairman must be Notified within 24 hours and he will reschedule the game.

3. Each new first year player's (Prep, Junior or Senior player) birth certificate will accompany the hard copy Form #2. No player may participate in the program until a proper birth certificate has been submitted and accepted by a Department Baseball Committee official. NOTE: Refer to National Rule Book for explanation as to what is proper record of birth to be submitted. (Refer to National Rule 2, D.)

4. Requests for Dual Participation – The use of the National Form #6 will be mandatory for all players who are participating for another baseball program (to include travel teams, prospect teams community teams, etc) during our legion baseball season. These forms shall be submitted with each

teams other paperwork. This form is available online on our website under various links. Please note that during the regular season, American Legion Baseball players or teams may participate in other amateur baseball programs however, the team manager and the player(s) must obtain written approval from the State Chairman. When state Tournament play begins, Legion baseball takes precedence and the player can only play for American Legion team or will be declared ineligible for state and national tournament play.

5. Proper Certificates of Insurance must be purchased and filled out on-line (Accident and Liability Required), **AND THESE CERTIFICATES SHALL BE EFFECTIVE BY THE 1ST DAY OF TRYOUTS.**

The official American Legion Baseball rules are allowed to be changed every two years. It was a rule change year in 2024. A PDF of specific changes that are implemented in the new rules can be found on our website as well as the PDF version of both the Senior and Junior Official 2024 Rule books.

The official American Legion Baseball rules as adopted by the National Americanism Commission for 20224 apply to the Department of Maine with the following additions:

GENERAL TEAM RULES

1. FIRST AID KIT: Each team MUST have a Red Cross-approved first aid kit in the dugout at all tryouts, practices, and games. The penalty shall be a \$100.00 fine for each violation if a team is in need of a first aid kit and they do not have one and this event is reported to the Chairman, Umpire in Chief or one of the committee members.
2. No one will be allowed in the dugout unless in uniform and this includes the scorekeeper. REMINDER - Per ALB Rule, all teams must have a legion baseball patch on their jerseys on either left shoulder or left breast for all regular season games and tournament games. All coaches must also have a patch on any game pullover.
3. The Chairman must approve a team sponsorship prior to a team participating in the Maine American Legion Baseball program. Teams may be sponsored by non-legion businesses or organizations. All outside sponsorship is subject to the approval of the State Chairman.
 - a. No firm or company whose advertisement reflects the sale or use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, marijuana, cannabis or vaping products shall be permitted to display such advertising on team uniforms or at ball fields where American Legion games are played.
4. The Department of Maine American Legion Baseball Program will be structured by "National Rule, Player Recruiting, Plan B, Rule 4" only, and all teams are eligible to be sponsored by one or more active legion posts located in Maine.
5. Dual Roster Players – National Rule 6.E.1. Dual Roster – Allows for players on an affiliated junior team to dual roster on the senior team without utilizing a roster spot on the senior team Form #1. Please note Team rosters shall not exceed eighteen (18) players.

6. Transfer Rule (Form 76) - There are no exceptions to the Form 76 transfer rule for either the prep, junior or senior program. The rule as listed in the American Legion Rule Book as “Rule 4.D Transfer Rule” - will be enforced.

7. Team Declaration Form (Form 77) - According to the national rule book, a Form 77 is only good for one year. Once it is signed by a player, then it is good until December 31st of that year. A legion program is allowed to make their own rule if it is stricter than the national rule. Therefore, the Maine rule for a Form 77 will be as follows. Once a player chooses a team from his school or domicile, he signs a Form 77 as a new player to that junior or senior team. That player is restricted to that team for his entire playing eligibility on that junior or senior team. If a player is released or cut by that team, then that player will be allowed to try-out for another team that is nearest his parent's domicile.

8. Player Eligibility: Please refer to the 2024 Eligibility chart in the ALB Rule book or on our website under various links. In general, Senior (19u) American Legion Baseball competition in 2024 is open only to players born on or after January 1, 2005 (any player born before January 1, 2005 is not eligible). Junior (17u) American Legion Baseball competition in 2024 is open only to players born January 1, 2011 thru December 31, 2007. Junior Legion Baseball shall be limited to players’ ages 13 to 17 years inclusive. Players born in 2012 and after are not eligible to play American Legion Baseball.

9. Player Recruiting – ALB Player Recruiting Plan B Rule 4 governs player recruiting. Read it and know it. Links to the rule book are available on our website and the National website and Rule books are also available in print. Any dispute, question, or appeal shall be brought to the Chairman. At the Chair’s discretion it may be presented to the full baseball committee and/or all current team Managers for discussion, deliberation, and recommendations to be presented to the Chairman. The Chairman's decision shall be final. Please note:

a. Combined total enrollment of draw schools cannot exceed 7,500 for 10th, 11th and 12th grades and Post-Grad if applicable.

b. Player Option Rule. Players attending a high school (including freshmen) outside a team’s recruiting area, may have the option of playing for the team **nearest the high school the player attends** or playing for the team **nearest the parent’s legal domicile** To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.

c. Players Per Team (ALB Rule 6E) – Team rosters **shall not exceed 18 players**. In cases of a season ending injury, a player may be replaced on the National Form #1 prior to the end of regular season play with the department baseball chairman approval and with proper supporting medical doctor's note and documents. **Please note:** if a team is unable to field a minimum of 9 players for a game, (players must be listed on their form 1, and/or listed on the affiliated Jr team form 1), they shall forfeit. This applies to regular season as well as tournament play. In the instance of mechanical vehicle failure or other delay, upon agreement of both teams, the umpires, and the ability for the schedule to accommodate, a delayed start may be utilized to avoid forfeit.

d. Tryouts, Formal Roster, and Cuts – Each team shall hold at least 1 tryout. The date, location and time shall be published (social media, traditional medial, etc.) and provided to the Chairmain. Once a team has tryouts and they have rostered the amount of players they plan

to roster, up to 18, then a list shall be created of those players who were cut* with their names, parents names, addresses, phone number, email address and birth date. This list shall be forwarded to the baseball Chairman and the Baseball Committee's Player Advocate Agent. The Chairman together with the Advocate/Agent shall forward this list to the next closest team so that team will be made aware of these players. If the team is accepting players an additional tryout may be held, the players signed, or the team shall provide each player a release (Form 76). This process shall continue until each player finds a team or decides that they do not want to participate in Legion baseball. *Note: Every player that is cut from a legion team roster, that is, the roster that is entered onto the official Form 1 roster on-line shall be on that cut list. Players cannot be held on a team to be eligible for Tournament Rosters and not be allowed to try out for another legion baseball team for official legion baseball district play. All disputes shall be adjudicated by the Chairman.

UMPIRES

1. Umpires shall be governed by the Baseball Umpire Committee, the Umpire in Chief, and ultimately the Chairman. Umpires that work regular season games, and achieve favorable reviews, shall be selected for tournament play and National Honors. There are forms available on our website for anyone to review umpires both favorable and unfavorable and we encourage them to be used and submitted. Umpires shall know the Official MLB Rules, (paying attention to section 8.0 The Umpire Official MLB Rules regarding specifics for umpires), the ALB SR and JR National rules and the Maine Rulebook Herein.

a. There shall be two (2) umpires hired for all Regular season games. If only (1) umpire is available, the Game may be played.

b. There shall be three (3) umpires hired for all State Tournament games. If only (2) umpires are available, the Game may be played.

c. Umpires hired for games shall be members of a Maine Umpire board approved by the Maine American Legion Baseball Chairman and/or Umpire sub-committee.

d. The fee paid for all games shall be determined by the Umpire Committee together with the approved Maine umpire boards and listed on the website prior to the start of the season. Fees may be different for SR or JR games. The fees shall not change during the season.

e. Umpire Authority- Umpires have the authority to eject players, coaches, managers, or spectators from a game for malicious, flagrant, or un-sportsmanlike conduct. If a player or coach is ejected from a game, a mandatory one game suspension will be served. Umpire will notify the assignor responsible for the game, the day or night it occurs. The assignor contacted shall notify the Umpire committee and Baseball Chairman immediately. Umpire in Chief will notify the team, if the participant ejected will or will not coach or play the next Game, and/or the full length of the suspension. If the team is not notified, the player, coach, or manager may participate in the next Game.

1. In all Maine American Legion games, ejection or disqualification from a contest for unsportsmanlike behavior of any form, by a coach or a player, shall result in the

suspension of that player or coach. The coach or player ejected from a contest must sit out all contests at all levels until the coach or athlete completes the ejection penalty by sitting out the next game at the level from which he/she was ejected.

2. A suspended coach may not be present at the game site. Not being physically present at the site means the disqualified coach is not to be present in the dugout, on the field/sidelines, in the stands, or site area before, during, or after the game. An ejected player may attend the next game but should not be in uniform.

*Please note: This is a minimum penalty; The Chairman may impose a stricter penalty upon review of the circumstances.

f. Umpire Professionalism - Umpires should study and know the rules to be the walking talking rule book on the field. Uniform will be neat and professional. It is recommended that the Umpire shirt include the American Legion Baseball Patch on the left sleeve during the regular season, and is required for all post-season competition. All participants of the game will be treated with respect, and umpires will be courteous in all situations.

MAINE GAME RULES

1. GameChanger - GameChanger is the mandatory scoring system for our program. The home team GameChanger is the official scoring for that game. It is up to each coach to keep track of the other team's scoring during the game, especially the pitch count to make sure they are in agreement as needed.

2. Pitching Rules - Pitch Count. Junior and Senior programs: **No player may pitch more than a total of 105 pitches per day.** A pitcher will be allowed to finish a batter if he reaches or exceeds the maximum limit during an at-bat, but must exit the position after that hitter. No player may enter the game as a pitcher without having fulfilled the required rest days as mandated in the chart below. No player may make more than two appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period. PENALTY – The pitcher is removed from the pitcher's position and head coach shall be ejected from the game and serve an additional game suspension.

a. Any player may be removed from the pitching position and remain in the game at another position. However, a pitcher will be automatically removed from the position when a coach makes a second trip to the mound in the same inning, and that player cannot return as a pitcher in that game.

b. If a player returns as a pitcher in the same game, he will be charged with another appearance.

c. If a team has multiple games on the same day, a pitcher who pitches more than 45 pitches in Game 1 may not pitch in a subsequent game that day and will be required to follow the rest protocol listed. A day is defined as 8 am to 8 am.

d. Please see pitching links on our website as well as links to USA Baseball/MLB PitchSmart for guidance.

Required Rest	0 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days
Pitches in Game	0—30	31—45	46—60	61—80	81—105

3. The Designated Hitter Rule (Pitcher Only) - The DH Rule is allowed in Maine American Legion Baseball. Refer to Rule 5.11 of the Official MLB Rules and ALB National Rule 1I. If you use the designated hitter, it must be for the pitcher only for the junior and senior program. The American Legion does not use the “Ohanti Rule.”

4. Game Length and Run Rule - All regular season games, playoff games and department tournament games for the Prep, Junior and Senior Program are seven (7) innings with a 10-run mercy rule after five (5) innings of play or 4 1/2 innings if the home team has the last at-bat. If both teams agree prior to the start of the game to play 7 full innings, during the regular season only, the 10 run mercy rule will be abandoned. Result of the full 7 innings is the official result of the game.

5. Re-Entry Rule - The Maine Legion Baseball Program will utilize the re-entry rule (ALB Rule 1T) for the **regular season only**. The rule as stated: “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.”

6. Courtesy Runners Rule - The Maine Legion Baseball Program will utilize the Courtesy Runner rule (ALB Rule 1G) for the **regular season only**. The rule as stated: “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.”

The courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher must be a player that is on the bench, not currently in the lineup, (including DH and EH Positions) and 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.

7. Extra Hitter Rule - Applies to Regular Season games ONLY.

1. Teams may bat a nine (9) player line-up or a ten (10) player line-up using an Extra Hitter (EH). Such a line-up must be declared before the start of the game and used the entire game. RATIONALE: Teams have the option of batting the traditional 9-man batting order (with or without a DH) or adding a 10th hitter. Using an Extra Hitter will allow more student/athletes to participate in the competition.

2. If a team uses a line-up that contains ten (10) players, the player in the Extra Hitter position, while not actually playing a defensive position, will be treated as such for substitution purposes. The declared Extra Hitter may not substitute in any defensive position.

RATIONALE: Unlike the Designated Hitter, who is allowed to substitute in any defensive position, the Extra Hitter is not allowed to substitute in defensively; he is strictly a hitter. This

simplifies administration of the rule. The language also clarifies that if the EH is substituted for (Pinch hit or run), his substitute now becomes the EH.

3. If a team uses a line-up that contains ten (10) players, all starting players may be removed and re-enter the game once, but must re-enter in their original position in the batting order. Non-starters are not allowed to re-enter. When a starter re-enters, the player in the starter's batting position in the batting order must be removed from the game and is ineligible for the remainder of the game.

RATIONALE: The EH is treated the same as the other starters for purposes of the re-entry rule. Once again, this simplifies administration of the rule.

8. Free Defensive Substitution - During the Regular Season ONLY, Teams may use free substitution on defense, but the batting order shall remain the same. The “Defensive” team may substitute freely any fielding position player(s), other than the pitcher, with any player never appearing in the batting lineup to play a defensive position. If a player enters the batting lineup the player is no longer eligible for free defensive substitution, and is treated as all other players that have entered the game. If a player has had an at bat and has been removed from the batting order, then that player is also no longer eligible to play defense, bat or be a courtesy runner for the remainder of the game.

Once a defensive team has taken the field and a pitch has been thrown starting that half inning, then that team may no longer enter non batting lineup players as a defensive substitutions.

The defensive team that is using the “Free Defensive Substitution” rule MUST notify the opposing team’s scorekeeper of any defensive substitutions and clarify whether it is a lineup change or a “Free Defensive Substitution” before a pitch is thrown starting that half inning. If the defensive team fails to notify the opposing team’s scorekeeper of a change, upon discovery, that player will immediately be recorded as a lineup change, said player will occupy the spot in the lineup that coincides with the current player of the same fielding position, and Free Defensive Substitution will terminate for the remainder of the game for the offending team (All Free Defensive Substitutes for the offending team that are still on the field will need to be removed from defensive positions as Free Defensive Substitutes at the end of the offending teams half inning of defensive play).

9. Lightning Safety - There is a nation rule for Lightning safety (ALB Rule 1-P). In summation: When lightning is observed suspend play immediately. Wait at least 30 minutes after last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is observed before resuming play.

SUSPENDED GAME RULES

1. A regular season game that has officially started and is halted due to weather or darkness will be considered suspended before it becomes a legal game. A legal game is a game that game has to go 4.5 innings if the home team is ahead or 5 complete innings if away team is ahead, the home team would get last at bat to try and win. If a game does become legal and in subsequent innings the game is halted due to weather or darkness, the following criteria will be used:

a. If the game is halted and the inning is complete and another inning has not started, the game considered over. If the score stands tied, that game would continue as a suspended game.

b. If a new inning has started and the away team scores no runs and has recorded three outs and then game is halted, if home team is ahead, the game stands as complete. If the game is tied and the away team scores a run or runs to go ahead in that 1/2 inning, then the game is halted, that game is suspended at that point and has to be completed.

2. Suspended games will be completed from the point of suspension.

a. A suspended game completed on the following day will not count toward two games in Rule 1.L. These teams can still play an additional two full games.

b. Pitch count rule 1.S applies to suspended games.

*** ANY rules not specified in Maine State Rules will be covered by National Rules.**

EQUIPMENT RULES

1. Bat Rule - The senior, junior and prep program will follow the ALB Bat Rule 1B that is listed in the ALB Rule Book.

2. Baseball Rules - An American Legion Baseball authenticating logo is **recommended** on all baseballs used in regular season and **required** for all post-season competition. A current list of authentic products is online at emblem.legion.org and available via link from our website.

A baseball carrying the NOCSAE seal and NFHS stamps will be approved, for regular season play only, by this Baseball Committee. Note that a baseball carrying the NOCSAE seal and NFHS stamp is approved by the Maine Principles Association (MPA) for High School play as well. The Maine State High School game ball is the Rawlings R100NF.

Therefore, If a team chooses not to use an official American Legion authenticated baseball, as is recommended for regular season play, The state Committee has approved the following balls that do not carry the American Legion Logo:

Diamond DOL-1-NFHS ball, and the Rawlings R100NF

Use of any other baseball, unless expressly approved by the State Baseball Committee is not authorized. **The Official State Tournament Baseball will be the Diamond-D1-AL.**

3. Coaching Helmet Rule - Coaches must wear a helmet to be on the field. A hard helmet is required; "Skullies" are allowed to be worn by an adult base coach. Baseball hat inserts are NOT permitted. If a coach comes out to his coaching position without a helmet (as if to begin an inning), the umpire should direct the coach to put on a helmet immediately. If the coach does not immediately move to comply with the umpire's direction, the individual is to be ejected from the game. If a player is utilized as a base coach, that player must wear a helmet that contains ear flaps. A player cannot wear a "skullie" - hard helmet with no ear flaps" while coaching any base.

4. Field Conditions - Although there is no rule for conditions of playing fields, the respect of our legion baseball program as well as all the teams playing in our program should come into play for each and

every game. All Maine teams should make a great effort for maintaining a respectable field for playing our games. Fields should be mowed, raked and lined for every one of our legion games.

5. Home Team Commitments - Umpires and Baseballs: The home team will assume the responsibility of paying for umpires and also providing baseballs. If teams want to make adjustments to this rule, the discussion to do so MUST TAKE PLACE prior to the start of the game.

PROTESTS

1. Protests of official baseball rule interpretations during actual game conditions must be filed with the chief umpire before the next legal pitched ball is thrown from the pitching mound or an out made.

2. A written protest (using the Protest Form, descriptive email, etc) must be sent within 24 hours to the Baseball Committee Chairman, or Umpire in Chief.

3. The Chairman, Umpire in Chief and rule Committee shall deliberate and send the written decision to the Team manager with copies to the other team manager and umpires.

4. Player eligibility protests will be filed in writing, be specific and include positive written proof of the circumstances and presented to the Baseball Committee with a copy to the DEPARTMENT BASEBALL CHAIRMAN. If Commissioners or Directors have been assigned, they will resolve the protest allowing an appeal of the decision to the DEPARTMENT BASEBALL CHAIRMAN. If no commissioners have been assigned, the Chairman resolve the protest, assembling the committee as he sees fit.

5. Any player found to be ineligible shall be disqualified. Any and all games said player participated in shall be forfeited.

6. Any appeal or rule interpretations, to National Headquarters, the National Director, or the National Appeals Board MUST be routed through the Department Baseball Chairman. **Any individual or team, either directly or indirectly, that contacts such higher authority without the permission of the DEPARTMENT BASEBALL CHAIRMAN SHALL BE SUSPENDED** from participation in the Maine American Legion Baseball Program for a period of time as determined by the DEPARTMENT BASEBALL COMMITTEE.

FORFEITS AND MAKE-UP GAMES

1. District Games will take precedent over non-district games in rescheduling of un-played games. A player that is on the Form#1 and not on the lineup up card is eligible to play that game or any makeup game.

2. Teams must agree to and submit a signed copy of their season baseball schedule (District and Non-District) to the Scheduler prior to their first scheduled game. An email from a team official indicating that the team agrees to play all regular season games as scheduled shall suffice.

3. Game Make-up Directions – Regular season games not played as scheduled due to inclement weather or other reasons, must be rescheduled within 24 hours after the game is called. The Chairman

and/or scheduler must be notified immediately if a game is canceled or suspended. This game must be made up on the first open common weekday date of both teams. In the final two weeks of the season, this game must be scheduled on the first open date period, weekend or weekday. If the two teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date within the 24 hours, the Chairman will set the rescheduled date and his decision is final. If the game is not played on the rescheduled date, barring more inclement weather or other reasons, the Chairman will continue to reschedule this game until it is played. Expenses incurred to play the rescheduled game will be borne by the home team.

4. Forfeit Rules - If a team forfeits more than two games in the same season, that team's Baseball Franchise (team in question) status will be brought forward to the Baseball Committee. A penalty of a one year suspension could be voted upon. If a year suspension is voted, this team will be put on probation for the following year. If this team requests reinstatement after that suspended season, they will have to fill out a new team form and address the committee in person with their plans to successfully re-instate that team.

5. Unfinished Season Schedule - In the judgment of the State Chairman, Vice Chairman and Umpire in Chief, if a team does not finish its scheduled games, all games played by that team will be discounted in the final standings of the Zone in which the team played. Consideration will be taken into account on how the eliminated games would affect seedings for State Tournament.

MAINE LEGION EVENTS 2024 - SENIOR, JUNIOR STATE TOURNAMENTS LEGION BASEBALL SHOWCASE

1. All the Maine State Tournaments and Showcase locations, dates, formats and information shall be posted by the Chairman on our website under each program once that decision has been made by our committee.

2. Umpires for the State Tournament will be selected by the Umpire in Chief and his assistants with approval by the Department Chairman and will be members of the aforesaid Maine Umpire Boards.

3. All Junior and Senior tournament games will be scheduled seven (7) innings. Tournament games interrupted, for whatever reason, will be played to conclusion and retain their place in the tournament schedule.

4. All Junior and Senior State Tournament games will utilize a 10 Run Rule after 5 innings, unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 4 1/2 innings.

5. No team will be required to play more than two (2) games in any one-calendar day (State and National Tournament only). Playing day starts at 8:00 A.M.. NO games will begin after 11 pm local time.

6. The pitching rules adopted by the American Legion Baseball Program shall be in effect for both the junior and senior tournaments.

7. All Junior and Senior Tournaments shall follow the National Tournament Rule 9.

8. For seeding purposes only, teams whose records are the same in the final district standing and are tied for first, second or third place will be determined by:
- a. Won and lost record against the team or teams tied with.
 - b. Won and lost record against the other three teams qualifying for the State Tournament. In a season where there is less than 9 teams in a particular zone, winning percentage will be used as a determining factor with this tie-breaker.
 - c. Least number of runs allowed against team or teams tied within head to head competition.
 - d. If still tied, a coin flip will determine seeding.
 - e. The first and second place seeded teams will have the option of choosing to play as the home or visiting team in their first game of the State Tournament. From Game 5 through Game 15, a coin flip will be used to determine the home team.
9. If two or more teams finish in a tie for fourth place, the above tiebreak system will be used until the fourth tiebreak. There will not be a coin flip; there will be play-off game to decide the fourth seed outcome. If 3 teams are tied, after tiebreak's a-c above, a coin flip will decide a bye in game one, and the team receiving the bye will play the winner of the playoff game to decide fourth place.
10. During a State Tournament, any player, coach, or manager suspended from a game by an umpire for un-sportsmanlike conduct must report to the Protest Committee to be reinstated, the Committee will review the request and will make a recommendation to the Department Baseball Chairman. The Department Baseball Chairman's decision is final.
11. Any PLAYER, COACH, or MANAGER ejected by an umpire must leave the ballpark.
12. Any player, coach, or manager who shows any disrespect to the Flag of our country by unnecessary moving, talking, or not removing of hat during the code of sportsmanship and our National Anthem will be warned and a second offense means suspension for the rest of the tournament. This is a National Rule that applies to all National Tournaments.

Additional Rules

- 1. Junior and Senior games will be scheduled seven (7) inning games.
- 2. Doubleheaders - Juniors and Seniors: Teams are allowed to schedule doubleheaders consisting of two (7) seven-inning games. Teams are allowed to schedule the same team if you are playing a home and away series with that team or two different teams on the same day.
- 3. Season Calendar: The start and finish of each program regular season shall be posted as soon it becomes available on the Maine Legion Baseball website by the Chairman.

4. Schedules - All teams schedules shall be completed and circulated to all teams. Changes to this schedule can be made up until the first allowable day to start our regular season. After that day the only changes that will be allowed will be due to weather or with approval of the Chairman.
5. The visiting teams will be accorded the courtesy of 1/2 hour delay in the start of a game because of travel and unforeseen delays (i.e., mechanical breakdown, accidents, etc.).
6. The home team must afford the visiting team 30 minutes field/batting practice starting 1 hour before the scheduled game. Please be courteous to a visiting team and allow the same batting practice venue (field or cage) that you utilize as a the home team if that visiting team arrives on time.
7. Starting Lineups along with all rostered players that may later enter the game must be exchanged between teams no later than 20 minutes before the first pitch (changes to the lineup can still be made before first pitch). This will give each team's scorekeeper enough time to add the lineups to GameChanger.
8. If either team fails to field nine (9) players at the start of the game or during the game, the game will be forfeited and the Chairman notified immediately.
9. The Department Baseball Committee will arrange the playoff schedule in the event there are ties for fourth place in the final standing. Finances for tie breaking games will be shared by the teams involved.