Maine American Legion Baseball
Teams Meeting
March 9, 2024 @ 7:00pm
Meeting link: https://meet.goto.com/814561957

I. Welcome & Introduction

1. Welcome and thank you for your time
    I. Any new folks here?

II. Announcements

1. Legion baseball 100th year is 2025 – National would like teams/states to do something to acknowledge
    I. logos Patches and art are out for the 100 year anniversary.
        I. If possible (you are getting new uniforms) use the centenial patch it will be valid in future years.
        II. Maybe put the patch on caps also!

2. **Nation Rule Change – (will hear next week...there is a national conference call) -** proposed rule and policy changes brought forward at the department baseball chairman's conference regarding clarification of dual participation, dual roster, and a policy change to the tournament policies and rules regarding extra innings. Based on the pitch count rule and pitcher safety, a discussion was held to adding an extra inning rule to the national tournament policies. The committee recommends adopting the extra inning rule whereby if the game is still tied after nine complete innings, a runner be placed on second base (2B) to begin the top of the 10th inning to follow along with the MLB extra inning rule during national tournaments only

3. National Website team registration IS open https://baseball.legion.org/
    I. Team fees payment open - Total should be around $225-$250
        I. Maine state fee will not increase. Same as last year ($125 SR and $125 JR)
        II. National is likely going to be the same as well
            I. JR $75 per team with a $25 admin fee ($100)
            II. SR $100 per with a $25 admin fee ($125)
    II. Insurance
        I. Here are the new rates for the 2025 Legion Baseball season:
            I. Junior Liability $102.00
            II. Senior Liability $149.00

            III. Junior Med Seasonal $109.00
            IV. Junior Med Annual $159.00

            V. Senior Med Seasonal $129.00

VI. Senior Med Annual $200.00

4. I will be updating our Maine website in the next couple weeks. https://baseballmaine.com/

III. Old - -

1. last Meeting we discussed:

I. discussion regarding:

I. Forfeits – forfeiting team is charged a fee equal to the total umpire fees for the game

I. 1st offense – FINE & Hearing

II. 2nd offense – FINE, Hearing, & potential disqualification from Playoffs (chairman discretion)

III. 3rd offense – FINE, Hearing, Disqualification from playoffs, potential 1 year team suspension (players may be allowed to find new team following season) all case by case judgment of Chairman

II. Zone tourney's ?

I. TBD - if there is not enough teams will expand state tourney

IV. 2025 RULEBOOKS

1. I will have to get a draft out soon. I will email it around. FYI the only changes I see thusfar are the FORFEITS as noted above. Here is the link to the 2024 rules

I. https://baseballmaine.com/2024Maine_rules

II. Review the link. Make sure there is nothing that needs to be adjusted.

V. 2025 Tournaments

1. Sr State Tournament @ Mansfield July 26th – July 30th

I. Senior Region 1 tournament Shrewsbury, Mass August 6 to 10, 2025

2. JR State Tournament @ Mansfield - July31/Aug1 - Aug4/Aug5, 2025
3. PROPOSALS FOR 2026 AND 2027 PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP!!!

I. I have NONE to review.

I. Due to this - It will likely mean that the 2026 tourney will be Mansfield

4. Junior Regional @ Mass, Approx August 9-11

I. 6-8 teams; 2 game guarantee tournament (single elim with consolation game.

II. Is NOT nationally sponsored. Northeast got together and created the Jr regional tournament. We may be able to enter 2 teams if other states are not fielding teams, ME champ, & Runner-up if it is an option. Otherwise it will be just the Champ. Cost for the team will be $400 per team and a box of Balls.

VI. Additional 2025 Events

1. Showcase Event Will happen.

I. Hosted by USM

I. Sat July 19th rain day 20th

II. showcase style event much like the 2024 one at Husson with 8 +/- colleges in attendance
    I. Sat July 19th rain day 20th
III. Registration will be open to legion players like last year. (approx 70 players max)
    I. Cost $60 per player -100 (2-way) each
        I. sponsor/legion covering the remainder
IV. If there is a lot of interest we will look to offer an additional event in the fall – Also if there is NOT enough interest I will open it to legion in Mass, NH, VT, CT, etc

2. All-Star?
    I. In the past there was an All Star game. We will look to see if we can get that implemented for 2026. - Mayeb this game is held AFTER the Legion regional tourney to avoid regular season and post season conflict. If that is acceptable it is POSSIBLE that I could get a field and we could do it this year…. Thoughts?
        I. This year 2025 (and future years) we will name All Star selections. This will be handled by:
            I. TJ True is the point of contact for the NORTH
            II. Ray Bernier is the POC for the SOUTH
                I. Players will be named much like High School – nominated/selected by coaches.
                II. Chairman (Legion) will provide a Certificate, Award, Pin – something to the selected Athletes
                III. Awards will be handed out at the first Tournament Game that the player plays at Mansfield Stadium.
        II. All tournament teams will be selected as well.
            I. Jr, SR, and JR regional Named as above
                I. awards given/announced when??

    II. Legion baseball invitational tournaments
        I. I sent around some information for a tournament...no one responded…. So I can only assume there is no interest.
            I. Are there teams interested in attending or having us host a Tournament for 2025?
            II. Teams interested in traveling to other states for invitational tourneys? Let me know ASAP

VII. Fundraising

1. local posts are supposed to assist teams in their area
    I. other nearby posts (ex: Winterport should be supporting the Hampden team) who do not have a team should also help
        I. If you have reached out to your local post and you are not getting a response. You need to let me know ASAP so I can facilitate communications.

II. Find private sponsors as well!
    I. Sponsors need to be approved by Chairman. Basically National will not let me approve a sponsor that is Alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, strip clubs, etc.

VIII. **Communications**

1. **There was a request for a "flyer" announcing the 2025 season - DONE**
    I. I sent one posted on Facebook as well – did others and what has the response been?
2. I will be sending out Emails to all AD's in state shortly
3. I will be posting on social media as well
4. Each team needs to establish a Twitter/X, Facebook page, Instagram or some combination thereof.
    I. A Team manager/parent could lead it.
        I. Post pictures, scores, practice times, etc. Engage the community
        II. Like/follow Legion Baseball and all other teams and local Posts
        III. My facebook to follow:
            I. https://www.facebook.com/baseballmaine
        IV. My Twitter/X to follow:
            I. https://twitter.com/baseball_maine
        V. My Instagram to follow:
            I. https://www.instagram.com/baseball_maine/
    II. This site is a work in progress. My goal is to have a large amount of information at your fingertips. https://baseballmaine.com/
        I. If there is something you would like to see or if you would like to add info, let me know.

IX. **Umpires**

I. I am hoping that we can keep the same crew as we did last year. I will be in touch with them to confirm they are willing. I hope it looks like this:
II. Umpire Chief / North Assigner
    I. Dennis Farnham Phone : 207-214–3095 Email : dennisfarnhamjr@yahoo.com

    II. Rules Interpreter / Central Assigner
        I. Jeff Mertzel Phone : 207-441-7398 Email : jmertzel@hotmail.com

    III. South Assigner (Pending)
        I. Kevin Joyce will get contact once confirmed.

III. **UMP pricing for 2025 Will remain the same**. I have not heard otherwise
IV. At the end of the season, invite best umpires to officiate tournaments
V. Each state can nominate an ump to recognize and utilize in regional games and world series. We nominated Bill Juilli.

X. Softball

I. Folks interested in assisting the creation of a legion softball program which would mirror the baseball program please contact me ASAP

II. this has been put on back burner...

XI. Recruiting

I. New Teams, Players, and Coaches needed

I. There was some questions regarding what players you are “allowed” to approach and how that works. I will discuss now, but look to PLAYER RECRUITING PLAN B RULE 4

I. https://baseballmaine.com/go/SR_Legion_2024_Rulebook

XII. Scheduling

1. **Need to know what teams are committed. Please confirm commitments so that we can get out an accurate DRAFT schedule ASAP – ALSO Need ANY dates that your venues are NOT avail so that I can black them out for your team. Make contact with your venues so we can verify!**
2. **Right now I have heard from the following as potential SR/JR teams:**

SENIOR TEAMS	YES/MAYBE
Hampden	Yes
Sebasticook	Yes
Belfast	Yes
Old Town	Yes
Old Town team 2	Maybe
Gray/Windham	Maybe
Franklin	Yes
Skowhegan	Yes
Trenton/Elsworth	Yes
5 Town/Camden	Maybe
Portland	Maybe
Cheverus - Tony DiBiase (Lost his email if someone has it please send along)	Maybe
Mt. Valley/Dirigo (need email)	Maybe
Kennebunk	Maybe
Boothbay	Yes
Capital Area SR	Yes
Fairfield (Riverkings)	Yes
Bangor	Maybe

JUNIOR TEAMS	YES/MAYBE
Hampden	Yes

Old Town	Yes
Old Town team 2	Maybe
Gray/Windham	Yes
Franklin	Maybe
Skowhegan	Yes
Trenton/Elsworth	Yes
5 Town/Camden	Maybe
Portland	Maybe
Cheverus - Tony DiBiase (Lost his email if someone has it please send along)	Maybe
Mt. Valley/Dirigo (need email)	Maybe
Boothbay	Maybe
Capital Area JR	Yes
Fairfield (Riverkings) JR	Yes
Bangor	Maybe

I. Schedule will be set avoiding weekend play to allow for the showcase, other games that teams may choose to play, developmental, rain, etc. It does not mean that teams are not allowed to play. Certainly teams can see availability and propose to the schedulers game days/times that would work and work them into the schedule. The schedule must be maintained.
   I. What are your thoughts about focusing games for Jrs on MON, TUES, THURS… with teams that have lights hosting DBL headers on TUES whenever possible
   II. Games for SR on MON WED THURS – teams that are ABLE to host dbl headers on WED whenever possible.

II. From what I have heard from folks is that they would like to see regular season play throughout the state. Also called "Crossover" games. This may have to happen if there are not enough teams formed in all areas.

3. HERE is a HUGE issue… Below is a list with ALL of the teams that have completed the online team application/registration thusfar. You ask for schedules, you ask for planning. Would you like me to schedule the season as is? If you are planning, a team then plan a team. If you cannot contact your players, then call a parent and ask them to.

TEAM NAME	TEAM TYPE	TEAM SCHOOL
Capital Area Baseball - Junior	JUNIOR	Cony HS
Old Town - Orono Twins	JUNIOR	Old Town HS
Post 8 Downeast Captains	JUNIOR	Narraguagus Jr/Sr High School
Old Town - Orono Twins	SENIOR	Old Town HS
Bangor Comrades	SENIOR	Bangor High School
Capital Area - Senior Legion	SENIOR	Cony High School
Dirigo Sturgeon Senior Legion	SENIOR	Gardiner Area High School
Gray Post 86 Warriors	SENIOR	GNG HS

I. **So we have 3 JR teams, and 5 SR teams registered thusfar and it is MARCH**

I. It is NOT a surprise that you are saying it is difficult to get players to commit. You are not committed.
II. I asked for **ALL** teams that are planning a team to send me **ANY** dates that needed to be blacked out or avoided for any reason so I could plan regular season games. I received **ZERO** dates.

XIII. 100th Anniversary 2025

I. logos Patches and art are out for the 100 year anniversary.
   I. If possible (you are getting new uniforms) use the centennial patch it will be valid in future years.
   II. Maybe put the patch on side of caps also!

Maine American Legion Baseball
2025 Season Key Dates
REMAINING

- **March 9, 2025:** Meeting 7pm via GoToMeeting
- **March 31, 2025:** Establishment of player's legal domicile (parents' domicile) and high school enrollment for grades 10, 11 & 12
- **April 15, 2025:** DEADLINE for Department Rule Books to National Office (via email) and State Tournament sites.
- **April 15, 2025:** DEADLINE to Report site and date of Sr. and Jr. Department State Tournaments
- **April 27, 2025:** Meeting 7pm via GoToMeeting - **Mandatory ALL TEAMS MEETING** at least 1 representative from each team must be in attendance.
- **May 15, 2025:** DEADLINE for early registration, to complete coaches & staff background check/Awareness training, to submit GameChanger account name, to purchase insurance and pay registration fees.
- **May 18, 2025:** Meeting 7pm via GoToMeeting
- **June 1, 2025:** FINAL DAY to register team applications, purchase insurance and pay registration fees for 2025 season.
- **June 2, 2025:** LOU GEHRIG DAY
- **June 21, 2025:** DEADLINE for teams intending to give a player a release (Form #76)
- **June 25, 2025:** DEADLINE for Team Mangers to submit online Form #1 with Department Chairman to be eligible for national tournaments.
- **June 30th, 2025:** Chairman DEADLINE review all submitted Form #1 rosters and certify for national eligibility.
- **July 15, 2025:** DEADLINE for baseball scholarship application submission to department HQ.
- **July 17, 2025:** ALB Centennial Season Celebration.
- **July 19, 2025:** American Legion Showcase at USM. (Rain date July 20th)
- **July 26- 30/31, 2025:** Maine SR State Championship. Mansfield Stadium, Bangor
- **July 31, 2025:** DEADLINE for department chairman to certify Department Champions to National Office and regional tournament directors.

- **July 31/Aug1 – Aug 4/5, 2025:** Maine JR State Championship. Mansfield Stadium, Bangor
- **August 6-10, 2025:** Northeast SR Regional Tournament (Manchester, NH)
- **August 8, 2025:** DEADLINE Department scholarship winners due at ALWS Office, Shelby, NC to be considered for All-Academic Team.
- **August 9-11*(Approx) 2025:** Northeast JR Regional Championship _____, Mass
- **August 14-19, 2025:** SR World Series, Shelby, NC