

**Department of North Dakota American  
Legion Baseball**

**2023 POLICY MANUAL**



**The following POLICIES are written to SUPPLEMENT and ADD to the provision of the  
National American Legion Baseball Rule Book.**

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CONTENTS

<b>Policy</b>	<b>1 - Playing Regulations</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>2 - Player Eligibility</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>3 - Plan "A" Recruiting</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>4-Plan "B" Recruiting</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>4-Plan "B" Special Rules</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>5-Protest</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>6-Team and Player Certification</b>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>7- Conduct</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>8-Department Jurisdiction</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Policy</b>	<b>9-Department Tournaments</b>	<b>7-9</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>Departments Important Dates</b>	<b>10</b>

## **Purpose of Program**

The purpose of The American Legion Baseball program is to develop Americanism and Citizenship. Therefore, American Legion Baseball players will not be allowed to smoke while in uniform. The use of nicotine products (smoking, chewing, or vaping), profanity, or the use of intoxicating liquors will not be permitted in the dugouts or on the playing field at any time. Anyone found doing so may be removed.

## **CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP**

The Code of Sportsmanship, as printed in the National Rule Book, will be recited prior to all tournament games. Therefore, all teams are encouraged to institute reciting the Code prior to games during the regular season.

## **NORTH DAKOTA BOYS STATE**

The Department of North Dakota Athletic Committee requires that all teams refrain from scheduling league games during the week of North Dakota Boys State (June 12 – June 17, 2022) to allow for legion baseball players to fully participate in this worthwhile program. Any manager, coach, or other team official who is found to have used threats, coercion, intimidation, or other undue pressure to prevent or discourage a player from participating in the Boys State program will be subject to a minimum of one-year suspension from NDALB for such behavior.

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

The American Legion has adopted the following policy concerning the National Anthem for all for all its programs based on this action:

**RESOLVED**, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 12-13, 2016, That the American Legion expects participants of all its programs to show proper respect to the Flag of the United States, always, including during the National Anthem: and be it further.

**RESOLVED**, That the National Organization of The American Legion recommends to departments and posts that the chairman or director of any American Legion Program make clear to all participants in advance of the program that The American Legion has the expectation for rendering proper respect to the Flag of the United States, always, including during the National Anthem: and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That if any participant of any program of The American Legion cannot or will not live up to this expectation, the individual should not be a participant in American Legion programs: and be finally

**RESOLVED**, That if any participant of any national-level program of the American Legion cannot or will not live up to this expectation, the individual will be removed from the program and not be allowed any further participation.

Therefore, it is the policy of the Department of North Dakota Athletic Committee that any participant in a North Dakota program will be subject to the criteria and penalties cited above.

## **SCORE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The Department of North Dakota Athletic Committee requires that the host team for all games played in the regular season will report the scores of the completed games to either the phone number or e-mail address provided by the Department at the conclusion of play. The text, email message, or voice mail will include the following information. Winner, loser, final score, league or non-league status, and date of play.

It is critical to the success of the program to be able to provide timely results and accurate standings to the fans and participants of American Legion Baseball using electronic media. Regional and Divisional Chairman will provide the proper contact information and will monitor results. Teams failing to meet this requirement will be contacted and will be subject to action up to and including loss of post-season eligibility.

**See the National 2023 Rulebook for American Legion Baseball to familiarize you with the rule changes effective for the 2023 American Legion Baseball Season.**

## PLAYING REGULATIONS - Policy 1

The Official Baseball Rules and National Rules shall govern all games, except as follows:

**D. Coaching Lines** - Any adult coach or player making any remarks or undue criticism of opposing players will be ejected immediately from the game, in accordance with National Rule 7 on conduct.

**F. Designated Hitter Rule** – A designated hitter may be used in all Class AA, A, and B Regular and Post Season games in accordance with the Major League Baseball American League Designated Hitter Rule, which allows a DH for the pitcher, only. Junior Legion teams may use the Designated Hitter for any player in the line-up in accordance with National Rule 1.G.

**K. Insurance** - ALL TEAMS MUST BE COVERED BY K & K Insurance. ACCIDENT-MEDICAL AND LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR THE ENTIRE SEASON! Insurance must be purchased on-line by 1 June 2023.

### N. Innings Pitched.

**4. Innings of Season Games** - All regular season games may be either nine or seven innings, except double-headers which will be seven innings.

**R. Substitution** - The National re-entry rule will be in effect for all Class A and Class B regular season games. There will be no re-entry allowed in Class AA regular or post-season play.

**S. Courtesy Runners** - Courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher only will be allowed for all Class A and Class B regular season and post season games. There will be no courtesy runners allowed in Class AA regular or post-season play.

**Pitching Rules** – Pitch count and appearance rules in National Rule 1.R and all sub-sections and clarifications will be in force for all regular season and post-season games.

Daily max (pitches in game)		Required rest (pitches)				
		0 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days
ALB Senior Program	105	0-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+

**Regulations Outfield Fence** - All teams playing in the program must provide a regulation outfield fence. Regional Supervisor has guidelines.

## PLAYER'S ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS – POLICY 2

**Date of Birth** - Players on Class AA, Class A or Class B North Dakota Legion Baseball teams must have been born on or after January 1, 2004. Any Legion Baseball program can field a junior team providing all players are born on or after January 1, 2006.

**Player Residence** - If a player's legal residence is established prior to March 31 of this year in a community other than the community where he attends high school, he may play for either team. In the state of North Dakota, a player will play with the team associated with the high school they attend.

### 4. Eligibility situations not covered under National Rules.

D. When a player and his parents move into a community after March 31, the player is immediately eligible to play American Legion Baseball in that community if he notifies Dept. Athletic Committee Chairman Russ Kroshus, 1518 Canyon Drive Bismarck, ND 58501, by May 1, 2023, and is granted approval.

#### Order Needed Birth Certificates Early.

4. Birth certificates of players born in North Dakota should be secured as soon as possible from the Vital Records Program, State Department of Health, State Capitol, Judicial Wing, Bismarck, ND 58505. *New Identification Requirements!!! Went into effective January 1, 2008, the Division of Vital Records will need proof of identity for all individuals requesting a birth certificate. These new requirements are based on legislative changes that occurred during the 2007 North Dakota legislative session. The new changes restrict access to birth records as a preventative measure against identity theft and fraud. These requirements are explained in more detail on the birth record ordering pages.* The fee is \$7 for each certified copy of birth certificate issued...and fee must accompany request for certificate(s). Use special form, which will be sent automatically with your Team Entry Form after you submit Team Entry Fee to Department Headquarters. NOTE: Class A and B teams can submit photocopies of birth certificates and or hospital records.

**Playing on Other Teams** - A player will play with his Legion Baseball team on game dates and practice sessions. Upon approval of Legion team manager, a player may play with another organized team, such as an amateur baseball team, Babe Ruth or other recognized youth team, or a local softball team. Legion pitchers may not pitch for their Legion team if any activity with an outside team would place them in violation of the Pitch Smart guidelines outlined in the National Rulebook. It is important that such dual participation will not, in any way, interfere with a player's responsibility to American Legion Baseball.

**Players in active military service** are not eligible to play American Legion Baseball in ND. Players who are in the Delayed Entry Program of any Active-Duty Service or who are members of the National Guard, or any branch of the Reserves are eligible for American Legion Baseball.

**The Official American Legion Baseball Rules PLAN "B"** of the National Americanism Commission will govern all American Legion Baseball competition in North Dakota, except for communities fielding more than one Class AA team, those communities will follow the guidance of the North Dakota Athletic Committee.

**PLAYER RECRUITING - PLAN A - POLICY 3  
PLAYER RECRUITING- PLAN B - POLICY 4**

B. Team selection of players based on school enrollment.

A player enrolled in high school in a state other than his legal residence, must play with the team of his legal residence. If no team is available, he must play with the school he attends.

If no program is available in his community and a player is in school, he must play with the team recruited from the school he attends. If no team is recruited from his school or in the community of his legal residence, established prior to March 31 of this year, he must play for the team nearest his legal residence provided he is eligible to compete with this team and his election must be in writing and filed with and approved by Russ Kroshus, 1518 Canyon Drive, Bismarck, ND 58503 by May 1, 2023. In cases involving the crossing of state lines, mutual written permission of both Department Chairmen is necessary.

**SPECIAL POLICY - PLAN B ONLY**

Department closing date as referenced to in the National Rule Book under Rule 4 is hereby established as June 1, 2023.

**PROTESTS - POLICY 5**

- A. The Department Athletic Committee will handle all formal protests of rules other than those made during a game, which will be handled by the chief umpire. All decisions of the Committee are final.
1. Filing Deadlines - Protests of rulings, other than those made during a game, can be made anytime during the season but must be submitted to the Department Athletic Committee Chairman, Russ Kroshus, 1518 Canyon Drive, Bismarck, ND 58501, within 15 days of knowledge of a violation or dispute. (See Policy 9.D for specific deadline for protest involving player eligibility.)
  2. Filing Fee - Due to the increase in time and expenses related to handling a protest, a \$25 deposit must accompany protest filed with the Department Athletic Committee. The protesting post must pay any court costs that may be incurred because of a protest.
  3. Processing Time - The Department Athletic Committee will make every effort to resolve properly filed protests within 5 workdays.
  4. Investigation - Any coach or manager who, in any way, interferes with the investigation of the eligibility of players will be suspended from the Legion Baseball program for a minimum of one year.

## TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION - POLICY 6

Team Registration - All posts or other organizations sponsoring teams must fill out the Team Entry Form online at [www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball), by May 1, 2023. The National Team Entry Fee of \$125.00 for a Senior Team and \$115.00 for a Junior Team, as well as the required State Registration Fee, MUST accompany Team Entry Form. Teams who fail to meet this deadline will be ineligible for competition in the 2023 season. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS REQUIREMENT.**

1. **Form 1** – National Form 1 will be completed online after team entry form is approved. Filing deadline for Form 1 is prior to June 25, 2023. Form 1s will be downloaded by Department Athletic Committee Chairman Russ Kroshus, 1518 Canyon Drive, Bismarck, ND 58501, C – 701-426-5102/[russ.kroshus@bis.midco.net](mailto:russ.kroshus@bis.midco.net)

2. **Errors** - The Department Athletic Officer in charge of your Region/Division will notify all teams whose forms are incomplete by June 25, 2021, so they can correct errors by midnight, June 25, 2022.
3. **Incomplete Form 1 Disqualifies Team** - Any team whose forms are not complete by midnight, June 25, 2023, will not be allowed to compete in all post-season tournaments according to State Policies and National Rules.

**Insurance** - National Rule requires that Proof of Group Accident and Liability Insurance Coverage for the entire season must accompany completed National Form 1. All team coverage must be through the recommended carrier, which is K & K insurance. This insurance may be purchased online at the time of registration. The insurance deadline for June 1, 2023.

**Birth Verification** – All American Legion players will have their date of birth verified in accordance with Rule 2.E. of the National Rulebook.

**Team Photograph** - All Class AA, Class A and Class B Teams must submit a digital Team photograph at the time they submit their completed Form 1. Each team photograph MUST include the identification of personnel shown on the picture.

**Dual Registration** – Any number of players listed on a Senior team roster may be eligible to play on their junior squads providing that they meet all eligibility requirements for Junior play, and they are duly listed on that posts Junior roster by the official roster deadline.

**Sponsorship** - Outside companies, groups, or clubs may sponsor a team or league in The American Legion Baseball program.

**Class AA Teams** – At a minimum, teams from the communities of Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo-Post #2, Grand Forks, Mandan, Minot, Bismarck, Fargo Post-400, Jamestown, and Williston will be Class AA teams. All other teams wishing to compete in National post-season tournament play must register as Class AA teams. The final regular season standings will determine the seeding for the 2023 State AA Post Season. Rainouts do not need to be made up unless they affect the standings. If a make-up is required to be played, the game will be forfeited by any team not willing to play the make-up game.



A 10-team double elimination tournament will be hosted by Dickinson, 24-30 July 2023.

**Class A Teams** – There will be 21 teams competing as Class A in 2023 in two divisions. The west division will consist of 10 teams and the east will consist of 11 teams. They will compete in the regular season in a two Division format, with divisional tournaments determining the teams that will advance to an 8 team State Class A tournament. The top four divisional placers will advance to the state tournament.

**Class B Teams** - Senior American Legion Class B Legion Teams will consist of teams in seven districts across the state of North Dakota that are considered Class B teams by the NDHSAA. Seven district tournaments will be played, and the winner of each district tournament will advance to the Class B State tournament. Any Class B team can move up to Class A with the permission of the athletic committee.

Junior Team - Any city can field a junior team, providing all team players are born on or after January 1, 2006, and team entry fee for that team has been paid. All other requirements are the same.

### **CONDUCT - POLICY 7**

**During the Regular Season** - Any player, coach or manager ejected from a game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the following game as well. Any ejection must be reported to the baseball committee by having the game umpire-in-chief or the manager of the team hosting the game send an email to the following address: [ndalbaseballumpires@yahoo.com](mailto:ndalbaseballumpires@yahoo.com). This email will include the names of the participant(s) that were ejected, the name of the umpire doing the ejection and a brief description of the behavior that caused the ejection. This will allow for the tracking of repeat offenders. Failure to report these incidents could result in disciplinary action taken against the host team.

**During a Department Tournament** - Any player, coach or manager ejected from a game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the remainder of that tournament unless he is re-instated by the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief, the Tournament Manager, and the Department Athletic Committee Representative in charge of the tournament.

**Post Responsible for Players Conduct** - All posts will be held responsible for the conduct of their players during the baseball season and during tournament play. It is strongly urged that the Team Manager or another adult be always in the dugout. It is mandatory that team personnel stress to the team that any derogatory or improper use of social media or on-line bullying as pertains to American Legion Baseball will not be tolerated.

**Bench Decorum** – Chatter is a baseball tradition and positive language directed at your teammates is encouraged. However, language directed at opposing players or coaches in a negative or derogatory manner, or noise or sounds not associated with the game of baseball that are meant to cause a distraction to the opposing team will not be tolerated. The penalty for “bench jockeying” will be ejection from the game for the offending player or players if identified by game officials. Failure to control this behavior after umpire warning could result in the ejection of coaches or managers as deemed necessary by the umpiring crew.

## DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION - POLICY 8

**A. Department Policies** - The Department Athletic Committee is responsible for formulating Department Policies. All corrections and recommended changes must be submitted to the Committee Chairman prior to January 1st of each year.

**Appointments and Supervision** - The Department Athletic Chairman oversees his assignment and will appoint a qualified assistant to help supervise The American Legion Baseball program.

**Umpire-in-Chief** – The Department Athletic Committee has appointed Nick Kulas as Umpire-in-Chief to oversee the Department Baseball Program, as well as a Deputy Umpire-in-Chief for each classification in the program. The Umpire-in-Chief and his Deputies will:

- Assist the Department Athletic Committee on:
- Setting up rules' clinics and umpire workshops
- Selecting umpires for Regional, Divisional, and State tournaments
- Interpreting rules situations
- Creating an information and reporting system for umpire and committee use
- Whatever other duties the Committee Chairman may designate.

**Team Commitment** - The signing of Form 1 by players, coaches, and team managers is a commitment to play Legion Baseball without interference from any other organized sport and is a guarantee that they will participate in tournament play if they are qualified. Pulling out of tournament schedules without a release from the Department Athletic Committee shall be subject to a \$200 fine payable to the host post of tournament site and suspension or probation from Legion Baseball for one year. This applies to the coach as well as the team regarding suspension and probation.

## DEPARTMENT TOURNAMENTS - POLICY 9

**Class AA, Class A, and Class B State Champions** will be determined in separate State Tournaments. The team winning the Class AA tournament will be certified by the Department Athletic Committee Chairman to National and advance to the Central Plains Regional Tournament. Any Class A or B team wishing to participate in the Class AA Tournaments for the opportunity to advance to National competition must petition the North Dakota Athletic Committee prior to January 1, 2023.

**Athletic Officers Expenses for Tournament** - The expenses of the Department representative at the Divisional, Regional, and State Tournaments, to include meals, lodging, and mileage, will be paid by the Tournament Host Managers upon presentation of statement of expenses connected with such tournament. **THIS IS AN OBLIGATION OF THE Post-Baseball Booster Group HOSTING TOURNAMENTS.**

**Double-elimination format** will be used in all Regional, Divisional, and State Tournaments.  
Play-in games to determine the field for Post-Season play may be single elimination.

**Rain Delay** - If a tournament game is halted by rain, it will be continued from point of interruption, regardless of inning, unless time is a factor in completing tournament. In that case, five innings (Class AA, Class A, and Class B) would constitute a completed game.

**Ten Run Rule** - All games will be considered a completed contest if one team is leading by ten or more runs at the end of five innings, or the end any inning thereafter for Class AA, Class A and Class B games. This rule applies to all tournament games.

**Game Length** - All Class AA, Class A and Class B Tournament play will be 7 innings.

**Ceremonies** – Tournament officials will make certain that The National Anthem will be played at least once daily at all Class B Regional, Class A Divisional and State Tournaments and that The American Legion Baseball Code of Conduct will be recited by all players and coaches prior to every game at Regional, Class A Divisional and all State Tournament games.

**Competition in State Tournaments** (Class AA, A, and B) is open only to teams that have been properly registered prior to the June 25, 2023, filing deadline in accordance with Dept Policy 6.

**All Class AA, A, and B Department Tournaments** will be played under the supervision of the Department Athletic Committee. All disputes and questions will be referred to the appropriate committee member whose decision shall be final.

**Eligibility Protests** - One week prior to the start of Post Season Tournament play will be the deadline for filing all protests of player eligibility. No protest as to player eligibility will be allowed after this date. A \$25 deposit must accompany protest filed with the Department Athletic Committee. The protesting post must pay any court costs.

## **Class B Tournaments**

All Class B Regional and State Tournament games will be seven innings with the 10-run rule in effect after five innings.

**DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENTS** - All teams in Class B competition will participate in District Tournaments to determine advancement to the State Class B Tournament. All 2022 Class B Divisional Tournaments must conclude on July 20, 2023, unless delayed by weather. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the forfeiture of the State Tournament berth by the offending region. At least one week before the Regional Tournament, the Department Athletic Officer in charge of the Division will call a meeting of Team Managers in the Region to make the drawings for the Division Tournament. The divisional winner will advance to the State Class B American Legion Baseball Tournament, except for the division of the State Tournament host, which will place the Champion and the host team should the host team not qualify for advancement.

**STATE TOURNAMENT** - The American Legion eight-team double elimination Class B Tournament will be held 26 July-30 July 2023, in Carrington, ND as the host. Teams participating will be the winners of the Class B District Tournaments and the host team. If the district champion is the host team, the district runner-up will assume the position of the host team for tournament bracketing. The host team (Carrington-2023) will play the last game of the day on the first day of the state tournament.

## **Class A Tournaments**

**Class A Playoff Tournaments** - All Class A Divisional and State Tournament games will be seven innings with the 10-run rule in effect after five innings.

**DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENTS** - All teams in Class A will compete in Divisional Tournaments to determine advancement to the State Class A Tournament. At least one week before the Divisional Tournament, the Department Athletic Officer in charge of the Division will call a meeting of Team Managers in the Division to make the drawings for the Divisional Tournament. The top four Divisional Tournament placers will advance to the State Class A American Legion Baseball Tournament, with the exception of the division of the State Tournament host, which will place the top three and the host team should the host team not qualify for advancement.

**STATE A TOURNAMENT** - The American Legion eight team double elimination Class A Tournament will be held July 28- August 1, 2023, with the Kindred as the host. Teams participating will be the top three placers from the Class A East Divisional Tournament, to included hots Kindred and the top four placers in the West Divisional Tournament. Tournament will under the supervision of Brent Everson, Class A Commissioner.

**If the host team has placed higher than a #4 seed in the divisional tournament, they will assume the seed earned and the and play the last game of the day on the first day of the state tournament.**

## **Class AA Tournaments**

All Class AA State Tournament games will be seven innings with the 10-run rule in effect for all tournament games after five innings.

The Class AA American Legion double elimination State Tournament will be held in Dickinson, ND on July 26-30, 2023. Regular season records within the League will be used to seed the teams for post season play. In the event of a tie involving 2 or more teams, the first tie breaker will be head-to-head won-lost records among the teams that are tied. Should a tie remain, the second tiebreaker will be runs allowed in games between the tied teams. Should a tie remain, the third tie- breaker will be runs scored in games between the tied teams. Should a tie remain, the final tiebreaker will be a coin toss involving the teams that are tied. This coin toss will be handled by the Department Athletic Committeeman with jurisdiction over that tournament after proper notification to the teams involved. This tournament will be under the supervision of Department Athletic Committee Chairman Russ Kroshus. The winner of this tournament will advance to the Central Plains Regional Tournament in Rapid City, SD, August 3-7, 2023.

**Junior State Tournament** - Rescinded for 2023

**Umpires** - All umpires are urged to attend an American Legion Umpire Baseball Instructional Clinic or a ND High School Activities Association Umpire Clinic that are scheduled in your area. Clinic attendance is MANDATORY for umpires desiring assignment to Sectional and State Tournaments. Umpires for all post season tournaments will be selected by The Department Athletic Committee from recommendations of the Department Umpire-in-chief, his Deputies, and the tournament host committee Chairman.

At a minimum, there shall be at least two competent umpires at all games in the Class B Regionals and Class A Divisional, except for Championship games in Class B Regionals and Class A Divisional, where three umpires will be used. There shall be three competent umpires at all games in the Class AA, A, and B State Tournaments.

Umpires for Class B Regional/Class A Divisional, and all State Tournaments will receive a minimum of \$75.00 per game plus \$20.00 per deim (if traveling), \$.58 per mile and hotel room provided by the host.

Advance Tournament Fee – Posts sponsoring Legion Baseball Tournaments are required to make payment of tournament fee, prior to holding tourney as follows: Class AA \$150.00, Class A State \$150.00, Class A Divisional \$50.00. Class B State \$150.00 and Class B Divisional \$50.00. Check in the correct amount should be made payable to the ND American Legion and submitted to Department Headquarters, Box 5057, Fargo, ND 58078, prior to the tournament. Department representatives are responsible to collect these fees.

# 2023 BASEBALL / ATHLETIC Important Dates

## May 15

Deadline for Early Registration  
Purchase Insurance  
Pay 2023 Registration Fees

## June 1

Final Day to Register Team Application  
Purchase Insurance  
Pay 2023 Registration Fees

## June 25

Team Registration Form 1 (Rosters) due

## July 1

Scholarship and Hall of Fame Nominations Due

## July 20

Completion of Class B Districts Tournaments

### *Class B District Tournaments:*

1st District – Hazen  
2nd District – Burlington  
3rd District – Rugby  
4th District - Jamestown  
5th District – Langdon  
6th District -  
7th District - Lisbon

## July 19-22

### *Class A East and West Divisional Tournaments:*

East Division – Casselton  
West Division - Mandan

## July 24-29

Class AA State Tournament – Dickinson

## July 28 - August 1

Class A State Tournament – Kindred

## July 26 – 30 July

Class B State Tournament – Carrington

## August 10-15

American Legion World Series – Shelby, NC

## January 1, 2024

Deadline for submission of recommended policy changes to Dept Hqs.