



**2024**

**DEPARTMENT OF OHIO  
AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL  
RULE BOOK**

**Dedicated to the Memory of  
Jack Hill  
& John Cannizzaro**

# Jack Franklin Hill Sr., Commissioner Emeritus Ohio American Legion Baseball



Jack Franklin Hill Sr., 91, of Lowell, Ohio, died Sunday, October 29, 2023. He was born January 23, 1932 in Marietta Township, Ohio to the late Harold and Laura Wagner Hill.

Jack was a 1949 graduate of Marietta High School. He served his country in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He was a member of Lowell American Legin Post 750. Jack was a member of the Ohio American Legion Baseball Commission for over 40 years. He was



instrumental in formation of the American Legion Beverly/Lowell Post 389/750 baseball teams. Jack was an avid golfer, with at least four holes-in-one, and loved to bowl, bowling in different leagues over the years. He was an avid sports fan, watching local teams, Ohio State teams, and the LA Dodgers.

He is survived by four children; Janice Pfile (Larry), Norma (Randy) Burge), Sandy Strickler, and Jack (Erin) Hill Jr.; grandchildren Ahslee Pfile, Rob (Danielle) Burge, Rachel (Eric) Booker, Zach Hill, Trae (Amber) Hill, Jessica (Seth) Emerick, and Maggie (Tim) Leach; eight great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Nial (Betty) Wheller; and many nieces and nephews, especially Jane (John) Trautner and Bill (Joanne) Hill.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marilyn Arlene Schilling Hill, whom he married May 1, 1951; siblings, Floriene Stewart, Bill Hill, and Robert "Lefty" Hill; and son-in-law Lee Stricker.



# John Patrick Cannizzaro



John Cannizzaro passed away Saturday, January 13, 2024. He was born in Newark, Ohio October 15, 1952, to the late John and Dorothy Cannizzaro, who passed in 1977 and 1978, respectively.

A 1970 graduate of Newark Catholic High School, John attended The Ohio State University for two years prior to serving in the United States Army from 1972 to 1974, as a military policeman. He was stationed in Frankfurt, West Germany.



John served as the head baseball coach at Newark Catholic High School from February 1985 until June 1992, returning in 2004 and continued until his passing. He was varsity assistant basketball coach at Pickerington High School from 1993-1997, and at Hebron Lakewood High School from 2000-2003. He was also involved in the local Babe Ruth Baseball League for several years. John had a deep appreciation and respect for his players. He wanted them to be successful. He loved coaching baseball and bringing out the best ability in each player.

During his 27 years with Newark Catholic Baseball, John led his teams to 12 league championships, 21 Central District titles, 14 Regional tournament championships, 7 Ohio High School State Baseball crowns, and the Ohio High School State Baseball Coaches Association Class I State Poll Crown in 1986. He totaled 577 career wins.

He held several state coaching records, including 14 state tournament appearances, 25 state tournament games, 18 state tournament wins, and 7 state championship teams. His 18 championship teams are also a record inside the Central District.

John's love of the game brought him recognition statewide. He was named to the Central District Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in January, 2016. He was awarded 10 District Coach of the Year awards, one Ohio High School Coaches Association Division IV Coach of the Year award, and one National Federation of Interscholastic Coaches Association Outstanding Coach Award in 1989. He was inducted into the Newark Catholic High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame in October, 2021, and the Licking County League Hall of Fame in June, 2023.

He will be greatly missed by his sisters; Jennifer Bolen of Akron, Jane Meese of Lancaster; brother, Rick (Mary Beth) Cannizzaro of Heath; niece Kimberly Cannizzaro; nephew Tony Cannizzaro; great-nephews, Ashton Cox, and Cason Cannizzaro; step-niece Shannon (John) Lee, and their children; John and Ellen; first cousins; Cecilia Cannizzaro and James (Lynn) Cannizzaro and their families.

# Table of Contents

Purpose and Scope of American Legion Baseball.....	Page 4
American Legion Baseball Code of Sportsmanship.....	Page 4
2024 Important Dates.....	Page 4
American Legion Baseball in Ohio.....	Page 5
2024 American Legion Baseball National Rule Changes.....	Page 6
Department of Ohio Organization and Jurisdiction.....	Page 7
Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee.....	Page 8
District Organization and Jurisdiction.....	Page 9
Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball District Chairmen.....	Page 10
District and Region Map.....	Page 11
Guidelines for District Baseball Chairmen.....	Page 12
General Information and Rules.....	Page 12
Conduct.....	Page 13
Guidelines for Team Managers, Coaches, and Post Officers.....	Page 13
National American Legion Baseball Rules – Player Recruitment Plan B.....	Page 14
Transfer Rules – Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball.....	Page 14
Regular Season Protests.....	Page 17
Appeals Process.....	Page
Transfer Form #76 and Declaration Form #77.....	Page
Junior and Senior Tournament Rules.....	Page
Exceptions to Combined Rules.....	Page
Tournament Protests.....	Page
History of American Legion Baseball.....	Page
American Legion Family Membership Applications.....	Page



**The American Legion Department of Ohio  
Baseball Committee**

Post Office Box 8007 | 60 Big Run Road  
Delaware, Ohio 43015



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## Purpose and Scope of American Legion Baseball

1. To inculcate in youth a better understanding of the American way of life, and to provide the principals of one-hundred percent Americanism.
2. To instill in the nation's youth, a sincere desire to develop within themselves a feeling of citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty, and team spirit.
3. To aid in the improvement and development of the physical fitness of our country's youth.
4. To build for the nation's future through our youth.

## The American Legion Baseball Code of Sportsmanship

I WILL:

- Keep the rules.
- Keep faith with my teammates.
- Keep my temper.
- Keep myself fit.
- Keep a stout heart in defeat.
- Keep my pride under in victory.
- Keep a sound soul, a clean mind, and a healthy body.

## 2024 Important Dates

January 1	Registration Opens (see How to Register an American Legion Baseball Team)
February 4	Department Rules Meeting
March 31	Deadline to establish player's legal residence for school enrollment
June 1	Deadline for Team Registration (see How to Register an American Legion Baseball Team)
June 5	Deadline to submit Transfer Forms
June 25	Deadline to submit Team Packet
June 30	Deadline for insurance refund from National
July 18-20	Junior Ohio State Tournament; Beavers Field, Lancaster, Ohio
July 21	Deadline for determining Ohio Senior Region Champions
July 26-29	Senior Ohio State Tournament; Beavers Field, Lancaster, Ohio
August 7-11	Great Lakes National Region Tournament
August 2-4	Mason-Dixon Junior Region Tournament; Maryland
August 15-20	American Legion Baseball World Series; Shelby, North Carolina
September 1	Official Close of the 2024 Season

# American Legion Baseball in Ohio

Ohio American Legion Baseball operates under the authority of the National Organization of The American Legion and abides by all rules procedures established in the American Legion Baseball Rule Book, published annually by The American Legion.

Failure to operate a Senior or Junior American Legion team in accordance with National rules, and with the procedures in this rule book may result in the following actions:

1. Offending team may be prohibited from participation.
2. Offending team may forfeit games.
3. Eligibility of players could be jeopardized.
4. A team may lose players due to rules infractions.

American Legion Baseball rules and procedures are designed to protect teams, players, sponsoring American Legion Posts, managers, coaches, and the Department of Ohio.

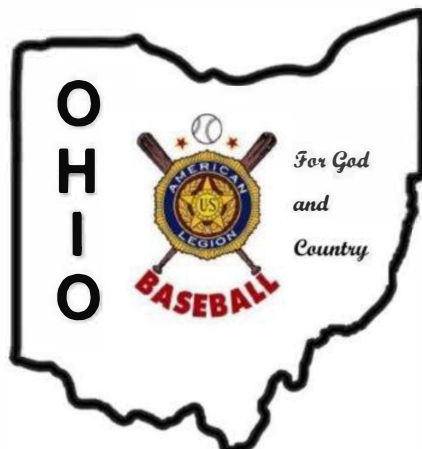
NOTE: Information in this rule book applies to both Junior and Senior baseball teams, unless where specifically noted.

Questions pertaining to this rule book may be directed to:

Chris Emmons,  
Department Baseball Committee Chairman  
162 Merret Farm Road  
Union, Ohio 45322  
P (937) 681-2080  
E [emmons0341@gmail.com](mailto:emmons0341@gmail.com)

Christie White,  
Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator  
P.O. Box 6007 | 60 Big Run Road  
Delaware, Ohio 43015  
P (740) 362-7478 | F (740) 362-1429  
E [programs@ohiolegion.com](mailto:programs@ohiolegion.com)

Questions regarding interpretations of rules or procedures must be directed to the District Chairman and/or Region Chairman before being considered by the Department Baseball Committee.



# 2024 American Legion Baseball National Rule Changes

The American Legion National Americanism Commission has approved the following rule changes for the 2024 American Legion Baseball season. Please refer to the rule within this rule book for official language.

**Rule 1. V. Uniform** – Clarification added that no other baseball organization’s emblems or insignia may appear on the uniform.

**Rule 2. C. 4. Clarification** – Allows for any player who signs a professional contract to be replaced on National Form #1 by an eligible player.

**Rule 6. D. Dual Participation** – Clarification of dual participation regarding department and national post-season tournaments.

**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.

**Rule 6. E. 5. Team and Player Certification** – Allows for any player who signs a professional contract to be replaced on National Form #1 by an eligible player.

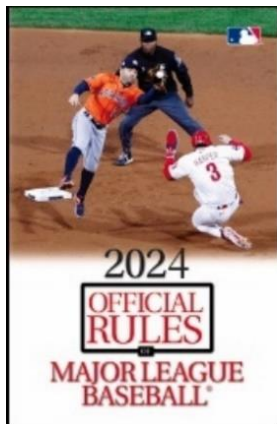
**Rule 9. A. National Tournament Registration** – Establishes the 2024 department deadline date for the department championship team to be certified by August 1, 2024.

**Rule 9. D. National Tournament Player Eligibility Protest** – Adds clarification for players who miss any part of a department post-season tournament due to a non-baseball-related matter.

**Rule 9. E. ALB Risk Management** – Per National Executive Committee Resolution No. 17, October 2023, all adult participants, coaches, managers, volunteers, and players 18 years of age and older) are required by Public Law 115-126 to have adult abuse awareness training and background checks to be eligible to participate in national tournaments hosted by The American Legion.

**Definitions** – Adds new definition for affiliated team.

Electronic versions of the American Legion Baseball Rule Books are available by visiting [www.legion.org/baseball/resources](http://www.legion.org/baseball/resources). The Official Rules of Major League Baseball are available by visiting Emblem Sales at [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org).



# Department of Ohio Organization and Jurisdiction

1. Ohio American Legion Baseball is divided into 14 geographic districts, whose boundaries are the same as the district boundaries of The American Legion Department of Ohio.
2. Ohio American Legion Baseball is supervised by a Department Baseball Committee, eight (8) members appointed annually by the Department Commander. One (1) member appointed by the Department Commander serves as the Department Baseball Committee Chairman.
3. The Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee may prescribe department rules and procedures that are more restrictive than the National American Legion Baseball Rules.
4. For State Tournament purposes, eight (8) geographic baseball regions are established within the Department of Ohio, with members of the Department Baseball Committee serving as Region Commissioners.
5. The region commissioners have responsibility to coordinate paperwork and resolve local issues that may arise, before referral to the full Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee.
6. The region commissioner, acting through the district chairman, may call meetings of team managers and coaches to clarify playing rules, eligibility, base schools, etc.
7. District chairmen in each region will notify the region commissioner of the time and place of any district meetings.

A map of the districts and regions for Ohio American Legion Baseball and the contact information of the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee are included in this rule book.

To equalize the number of teams in each region, the Department of Ohio American Legion Committee may move certain teams into different regions.

NOTE: By action of the American Legion National Americanism Commission, the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee has the power to disqualify or suspend anyone violating Department of Ohio or National American Legion Baseball rules and/or regulations.





# Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee

<p><b>Region 1</b>          District 1          Bryce Agner          1010 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street          Ottawa, Ohio 45875          P (419) 969-4231          E <a href="mailto:b-agner@outlook.com">b-agner@outlook.com</a></p>	<p><b>Region 5</b>          District 4 &amp; District 7          Bret Mavis          400 Northwoods Drive          Chillicothe, Ohio 45601          P (740) 703-9721          E <a href="mailto:bretmavis.bm@gmail.com">bretmavis.bm@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Region 2</b>          District 2 &amp; District 3          Chris Emmons, Department Baseball Chaiman          162 Marrett Farm Road          Union, Ohio 45322          P (937) 681-2080          E <a href="mailto:emmons0341@gmail.com">emmons0341@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Region 6</b>          District 8          Phil Lightfoot          556 Church Street          Logan, Ohio 43138          P (740) 603-3758          E <a href="mailto:ncaablu@yahoo.com">ncaablu@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b>Region 3</b>          District 5, District 13, &amp; District 14          Ted Sturzinger          1514 West Bogart Road          Sandusky, Ohio 44870          P (419) 901-4233          E <a href="mailto:teds1029@bex.net">teds1029@bex.net</a></p>	<p><b>Region 7</b>          District 9 &amp; District 10          BJ Long          5398 Overton Road          Burbank, Ohio 44214          P (330) 263-1489          E <a href="mailto:erlong69@yahoo.com">erlong69@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b>Region 4</b>          District 6 &amp; District 12          Jeff Vrabel Sr.          2222 Birch Bark Trail          Grove City, Ohio 43123-8512          P (330) 565-5333          E <a href="mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com">jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Region 8</b>          District 11          Regis Kern          P (740) 350-0897          E <a href="mailto:regiswkern@gmail.com">regiswkern@gmail.com</a></p>



## District Organization and Jurisdiction

1. For regular season play, Ohio American Legion Baseball is divided into 14 geographic districts, whose boundaries are the same as the district boundaries of The American Legion Department of Ohio.
2. Junior and Senior regular season play in a district is under the supervision of a district baseball chairman, appointed annually by the district commander.
3. Each district must have a District Baseball Committee, appointed annually by the district commander, comprised of the district commander, district baseball chairman, and at least one other Legionnaire appointed by the district commander.
  - a. The District Americanism Chairman may serve as an Ex-Official member of the committee.
  - b. Sons of The American Legion members are permitted to be appointed as a district baseball chairman.
4. District baseball chairmen are prohibited from coaching or managing any Junior or Senior Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball team, unless approved by the Department Baseball Chairman.
5. All district chairmen, working in conjunction with their region commissioner, are charged with setting a schedule of play which will determine a Senior Region Tournament Champion. The champion must be determined by the date approved by the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee, as shown in the table of 2024 Important Dates.
6. Region tournaments will be played under the guidance of State tournament rules.
7. The region commissioner may, through the district chairmen, call a meeting with the district chairman and district team managers and coaches to clarify rules, eligibility, base schools, etc.
8. The district chairman will notify the region commissioner of the time and place of any district baseball meeting.
9. Senior Region Tournament play is under the supervision of the region commissioner, working in conjunction with the district chairmen.

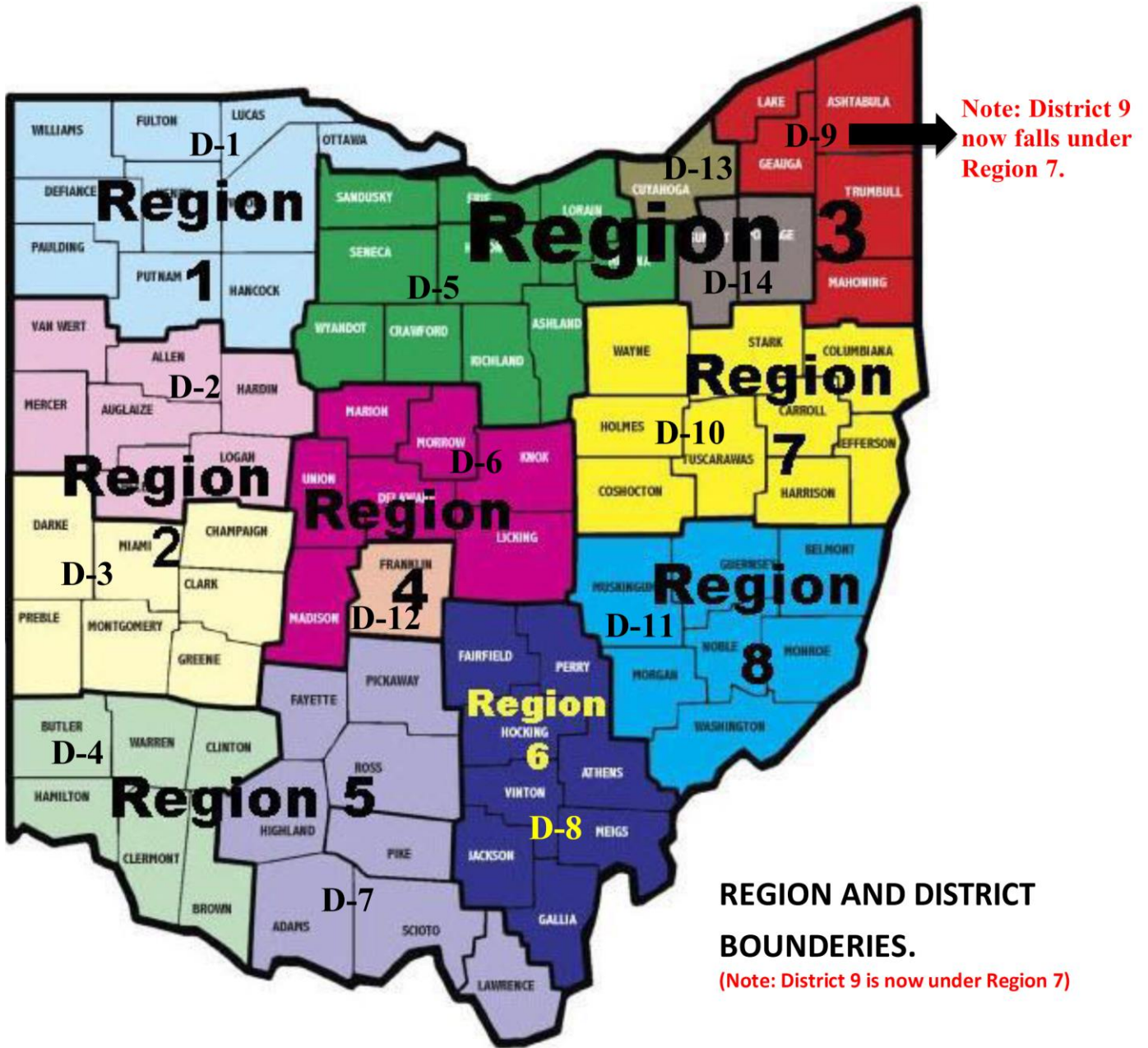
**BE THE  
ONE**

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

# Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball District Chairmen

<p><b>District 1</b> Region 1 Bryce Agner 1010 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Ottawa, Ohio 45875 P (419) 969-4231 E <a href="mailto:b-agner@outlook.com">b-agner@outlook.com</a></p>	<p><b>District 7</b> Region 5 Bret Mavis 400 Northwoods Drive Chillicothe, Ohio 45601 P (740) 703-9721 E <a href="mailto:bretmavis.bm@gmail.com">bretmavis.bm@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>District 2</b> Region 2 Bill Lonsbury 13181 East Miami-Shelby Road Piqua, Ohio 45356 P (937) 654-1430 E <a href="mailto:lonsbury49@sbcglobal.net">lonsbury49@sbcglobal.net</a></p>	<p><b>District 8</b> Region 6 Phil Lightfoot 556 Church Street Logan, Ohio 43138 P (740) 603-3758 E <a href="mailto:ncaablu@yahoo.com">ncaablu@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p><b>District 3</b> Region 2 &amp; Region 3 Sam Miller 4011 Raymark Court Dayton, Ohio 45414 P (937) 546-6579 E <a href="mailto:bobbobc5035@aol.com">bobbobc5035@aol.com</a></p>	<p><b>District 9</b> Region 7 VACANT</p> <hr/> <p><b>District 10</b> Region 7 VACANT</p>
<p><b>District 4</b> Region 5 Jerry Wilson 329 Harmony Drive Harrison, Ohio 45030 P (513) 476-1969 E <a href="mailto:jerryw199@yahoo.com">jerryw199@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>District 11</b> Region 8 Doug Wainwright 103 Rose Lane Drive Beverly, Ohio 45715 P (740) 984-4136 E <a href="mailto:dougwainwright389@gmail.com">dougwainwright389@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>District 5</b> Region 3 Mike Nye 155 US Highway 23 Fostoria, Ohio 44830 P (419) 435-4230 E <a href="mailto:mknye1992@yahoo.com">mknye1992@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>District 12</b> Region 4 Michael Higgins 1165 Rockwood Place Columbus, Ohio 43229 P (614) 208-4076 E <a href="mailto:mhig984@aol.com">mhig984@aol.com</a></p>
<p><b>District 6</b> Region 4 Mel Cantrell 187 Lake Avenue West Mansfield, Ohio 43358 P (937) 644-9923 E <a href="mailto:6thdistrictohio@gmail.com">6thdistrictohio@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>District 13</b> Region 3 VACANT</p> <hr/> <p><b>District 14</b> Region 3 VACANT</p>

# District and Region Map



Region 1	District 1	Bryce Agner
Region 2	Districts 2 & 3	Chris Emmons, Chairman
Region 3	Districts 5, 13, & 14	Ted Sturzinger
Region 4	Districts 6 & 12	Jeff Vrabel Sr.
Region 5	Districts 4 & 7	Bret Mavis
Region 6	District 8	Phil Lightfoot
Region 7	Districts 9 & 10	BJ Long
Region 8	District 11	Regis Kern

## Guidelines for District Baseball Chairmen

1. Each Junior and Senior team playing in a district shall provide to the district chairman a "Team Packet," which will include a printout of the team's roster, copies of each player's proof of age documentation, copies of Form #2 for each player, a color team photo, and copies of their K & K team insurance.
2. As proof of age, Ohio American Legion Baseball will only accept a state-issued driver license or a state-issued identification card for a senior team member. Junior team members may use a birth certificate as proof of age, only when a player does not have a state-issued driver license or state-issued identification card.
  - a. A meeting of all managers within a district should be held by the district chairman to review department and district rules, proof of age documents, challenges on player eligibility, or school enrollment. Scheduling should be completed at this time. The mercy-rule and pitching rules should be reviewed at this meeting.

The district baseball chairman is responsible to see that each team completes the following:

1. Registration on the national website and payment of fees via credit card or debit card.
2. All players' names must be entered on the online team roster must be listed exactly how the name appears on the player's proof of age documents.
3. The proof of age documentation includes a state-authorized document, United States government-authorized document, or other authorized document acceptable for American Legion Baseball. Birth certificates must be properly certified copy, i.e., bearing the seal of the proper certifying official. Photocopied and/or notarized copies will not be accepted.
4. School enrollments, as of March 31, are to be verified through [www.high-schools.com](http://www.high-schools.com).
5. A printout of the online team roster must be in the possession of the district chairman no later than June 25.
6. The district chairman will notify the region commissioner upon receipt of copies of insurance certificates, copies of Form #2, and copies of proof of age documents from each team in the district. The district chairman will also inform the region commissioner that each team's roster has been checked and that the roster has been submitted on later than June 25.
7. The region commissioner will inform department headquarters and the department baseball chairman that each team's roster has been submitted and recommend any corrections no later than July 5.
8. Changes in school combinations must be approved, in writing, by the district chairman and forwarded to the region commissioner no later than June 25, and to the department chairman and department baseball coordinator no later than July 5.
9. Copies of region tournament pairings and the schedule of play should be provided to the region commissioner, the department baseball chairman, and the department baseball coordinator prior to the start of the region tournament.
10. Protests on rules decisions must be ruled on by the district baseball committee. Any decision, suspension, etc. must be filed with the region commissioner, the department baseball chairman, and the department baseball coordinator within 24-hours after the district baseball commission takes its action.

## General Information and Rules

1. Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball is played under current official [Major League Baseball Rules](#), rules set forth by the Department of Ohio [American Legion Baseball Committee](#), and rules set by [American Legion National Headquarters](#).
  - a. Please note that the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee may prescribe department rules that are more restrictive than National American Legion Baseball Rules.



2. Team managers and coaches are not required to be members of The American Legion.
  - a. The ultimate responsibility for the operation of any American Legion Baseball team rests with the sponsoring American Legion post, through the post commander.
3. For recruiting rules, the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball is governed by Plan B, National Rule 4.
4. Teams not submitting the Online Team Roster on the National American Legion Baseball website are ineligible to participate in department competition.
5. The parent or guardian of every player must complete National Form #2 (Rule 6-C), Parent's Consent and Release.
6. Bat boys and/or bat girls must have the bottom portion of the Player Agreement completed by a parent or guardian.

To download American Legion Baseball Rule Books, please visit [www.baseball.legion.org](http://www.baseball.legion.org).

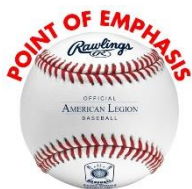
## **Conduct**

- All parties traveling with American Legion Baseball teams are expected to always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.
- Any party causing unnecessary disturbances and not abiding by the rules will be asked to leave the site where the game is being played.
  - Those refusing to leave may cause a forfeit for the that the unruly person or persons are affiliated with.
  - Should a team manager or coach withdraw their team from the field due to the unruly person or persons, the manager or coach must contact the department chairman and department baseball coordinator within twenty-four hours of the game.
  - Within twenty-four hours of any incident, the home team management is responsible for submitting, in writing, the details of any violations of conduct rules, and to acquire a statement from the umpires assigned to the game.
- Artificial noisemakers are prohibited at all American Legion Baseball games.
  - A first warning will be issued to the person or persons violating this rule.
  - A second warning will be cause for removal of the person or persons from the game, and from all spectator areas.
    - It is desired that violators completely leave the playing site and/or facility.

## **Guidelines for Team Managers, Coaches, and Post Officers**

1. American Legion Baseball is designed to be played by young people in a community where an American Legion post is located.
  - a. Players from outside the community may be recruited within the prescribed rules.
2. All team managers, coaches, Legionnaires, and parents or guardians should set examples of positive leadership for the young people playing on the team.
3. It is the team manager's responsibility:
  - a. For recruiting and certifying all players, and for filing all forms and proof of age documents with the district chairman by the established deadline.
  - b. To ensure that background check applications are submitted online for themselves, all coaches, and other team volunteers who will have direct contact with players.
  - c. To purchase insurance, and to pay fees online, to The American Legion National Headquarters by the established deadline.

4. Changes in school combinations by a team must be approved by the district chairman and the region commissioner by the established deadline.
5. All player's names must be entered on the online team roster exactly as the name appears on the players proof of age documents.
  - a. For example, George Herman Ruth Jr. could not be listed as Babe Ruth.
6. The player's signature on the Player Release Agreement Form #2 shall be signed with full first, middle, and last name as it appears on the players proof of age documents.
7. If a birth certificate is used as the proof of age document, the birth certificate must be the original, or a properly certified copy, bearing the seal and signature of the proper certifying official.
  - a. Photocopied or notarized copies are not acceptable.
8. School enrollment, as of March 31, must be verified through [www.high-schools.com](http://www.high-schools.com).
9. The bottom portion of Form #2 must be properly filled out by the parent or guardian of any bat boy and/or bat girl.
10. All signatures must be in ink, preferably blue, and notarized.
11. Familiarize yourself with Department of Ohio American Legion rules.
  - a. Ignorance of the rules is no excuse and will only create problems for everyone involved.



January 1 is the universal cut-off date observed by the U.S. Olympic Committee. The American Legion will observe a January 1 cut-off date. If a player was born in 2004, that player is not eligible for Senior American Legion Baseball. A player born in 2005 or 2006 is not eligible for Junior American Legion Baseball. Players born in 2012 or later are not eligible to play American Legion Baseball.

## **National American Legion Baseball Rules Player Recruitment Plan B**

The Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball recruiting plan allows for selection of players who attend nearby high schools. Please note that National Recruiting Rule 4 – Player Recruiting was changed in 2020. As a result of the change, combined total enrollment of high schools cannot be 7,500 for grades 1-, 11, and 12.

### **Transfer Rules – Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball**

American Legion Baseball rules state that a player must play for the team nearest to where they live. The program prohibits the creation of all-star teams, “super” teams, or the one-shot recruiting of exceptional players for the short term. Please note that players who graduate in 2024 must play for the last American Legion Baseball team they played for, or the team nearest their parents’ domicile.

However, American Legion Baseball recognizes that situations arise which merit consideration, on a case-by-case basis. American Legion Baseball tries to be fair in its review of such cases.

To address many special situations, Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball has designed transfer rules. Based on special circumstances, transfer rules allow for the approval of an American Legion Baseball player to play for a different team than the one, which is established by the rules, should be played for.

A transfer request by a player should be based on legitimate, logical circumstance, within the framework of established American Legion Baseball rules. Examples of special circumstances or situations are detailed in this section.

Only Senior players will be permitted to change teams via the transfer process. Approved transfers are for the current season only, as detailed in National Rule 4-D – Player Eligibility.

All other rules of eligibility will apply in any transfer request approval.

The state borders of Ohio are open for Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball, except for West Virginia. Players residing in Ohio are ineligible to play in West Virginia, and players residing in West Virginia are ineligible to play in Ohio.

Permission to transfer from Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball to a team in another state must be approved by the American Legion Baseball Commissioner from both states.

There are special circumstances that may be considered for permission to transfer from one American Legion Baseball team to another. Examples of those circumstances include, but are not limited to:

1. A new American Legion Baseball team is formed that is closer to the player's residence than the American Legion Baseball team that the player currently plays for.
2. A new American Legion Baseball team is formed that draws players from the requesting player's school, and they want to play with their fellow classmates.
3. There is no American Legion Baseball team in the player's hometown, or recruited from their high school, but there is an American Legion Baseball team in a neighboring community.
4. The American Legion Baseball team for which the player last played has disbanded, but another team exists in the area.
5. The player lives in one Ohio community during the school year, but in another during the season and wishes to play where the player lives in the summer. This could be the case in divorces where the player lives with one parent during the school year, and, by court decree, lives with the other parent during the summer.
6. The player's parents or guardians have moved within the state.

Initiating a Transfer Request. Any request for permission to transfer one American Legion Baseball team to another must be made by the player. Managers or coaches of American Legion Baseball teams are prohibited from initiating a transfer request.

The player must make written application for transfer approval on the official National Player Transfer Form #76, which can be downloaded from the National American Legion Baseball website or the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball website.

All transfer applications must be submitted to the district baseball chairman no later than June 5. Any decision by the district baseball chairman or a representative of the department baseball committee is final, however there is a right of appeal process. Questionable situations should be directed to the district baseball chairman.

Manager Approval. Any transfer request made by the player must be approved by both the manager of the team losing the player, and the manager of the team gaining the player. The approval of both teams must be made in writing on the official National Player Transfer Form #76.

New players in junior high school, and high school players in 9<sup>th</sup> grade shall play for the base school team of their parents or guardians legal residence. Transfer rules do not apply to Junior players.

Transfer Rule 1. Players who attend a school outside the geographical boundary determined by the parents or guardians legal residence may ply for the American Legion Baseball team drawing from that school, or from an American Legin Baseball team that is the nearest team to where the player lives.

A player must decide on which team to play for and file the decision, in writing, with the district baseball chairman by June 5.

Transfer Rule 2. Players who cannot complete their American Legion Baseball eligibility due to the post they last played for no longer sponsoring an American Legion Baseball team, may play for the next nearest team to their parents or guardians legal residence. Players must declare the circumstances of the situation, in writing, to the district baseball chairman, including a request to play for the next nearest American Legion Baseball team.

Transfer Rule 3. Players who cannot play for the American Legion Baseball team they played for during the previous season due to a permanent change of their parents or guardians residence shall play for the team nearest to the new legal residence. A notarized statement from the parents or guardians stating the permanent move and listing the previous address, must be given to the district baseball chairman responsible for the American Legion Baseball team where the player now resides.

Transfer Rule 4. If a player's parents are divorced or separated, and by court order the player lives with each parent for a determined part of a year, the player may play for an American Legion Baseball team near either of the parents' residences. The player must state, in writing to the district baseball chairman, the decision on which American Legion Baseball team the player will play, no later than June 5.

Next Nearest Team. American Legion Baseball rules stipulate that an American Legion Baseball player must play for the team nearest to where they live. If a player tries out for the nearest American Legion Baseball team but does not make that team, the player must obtain a written statement from the manager of that team, stating by the established rules, the player cannot be used by that team, at which point, the player may apply to play for the next nearest American Legion Baseball team to their residence.

If the player makes a personal decision that they do not want to play for the nearest team to their residence, for whatever reason, which is their privilege, the player can elect to play for the next nearest team to their residence. However, the player must obtain a written statement from every team bypassed that they cannot use that player.

The nearest team, or the next nearest team, shall be the based on the shortest driving distance, as calculated by Google Maps. Please note that players who graduate in 2024 shall play for the last American Legion Baseball team the player played for, or for the team nearest their parents domicile.

Any request to bypass an American Legion Baseball team must be done using the official National Player Transfer Form #76.

If a player asks for a release from a post, and the post does not wish to release the player, every opportunity must be given to ensure that the player can actively participate with the team.

If a player tries out for a team but the online team roster is already filled, the player will be granted an automatic waiver to go to another American Legion Baseball team. Only players who take part in a team tryout will be afforded this opportunity.

Please note that just as a player has the right to ask for a transfer, the manager of an American Legion Baseball team has the right and is not required to release the player. The manager's decision must be based on established recruiting rules of American Legion Baseball and can be appealed through the Right of Appeals process.

If an American Legion Baseball team will not release a player, that team must give the player every opportunity to actively participate with the team.

Failure of a player to follow the transfer process, as outlined, could result in disqualification from American Legion Baseball competition.

Failure by a team manager, business manager, or post to follow the established transfer process as outlined may result in having the team suspended or disqualified from further American Legion Baseball competition in the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball program.

Please note that a player thinking that they will receive more exposure to college or professional baseball scouts or more playing on one team over another is not a valid reason to approve a transfer request. American Legion Baseball is not to be exploited by a player or manager at the cost of the program. If a player is as good as thought to be, the scouts will find them, regardless of which American Legion Baseball team the player plays for.

## Regular Season Protests

1. All protests of a games played during the regular season shall be decided by the district baseball committee.
  - a. The district baseball committee has the power to disqualify or suspend any individual or team for violating District, Region, State, or National rules or regulations.
2. In accordance with the Official Rules of Major League Baseball, all protests must be brought to the umpire-in-chief before the next legal pitch.
  - a. In addition, such protest must be made, in writing, and shall include, if applicable, a written report from the umpires. All protests must include the specific rule alleged to have been violated.
    - i. This written report must be given to a Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee official overseeing the program, regardless of the level of play.
3. After a decision has been made by the district baseball committee, an appeal may be forwarded to the region baseball commissioner for consideration.
  - a. The decision of the region baseball commissioner may appealed to the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee through the established appeal process.
4. Any protest certified by the district baseball committee and forwarded to the region commissioner and the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee shall be the responsibility of the protesting party, who will assume the administrative costs of conducting investigations, polling committee members, etc.
  - a. These administrative costs shall be paid within ten (10) days following the decision is rendered, or within twenty-four (24) hours prior to the state tournament, whichever shall come first.
    - T. Failure to pay administrative costs will result in the automatic suspension of the American Legion Baseball team from further American Legion Baseball participation, until such costs are paid in full.
5. No protest will be heard based on a judgement call made by an umpire.
6. All protests of player eligibility must be specific, with documented proof
  - a. Player eligibility protests shall be forwarded to the district baseball chairman immediately upon discovery of a violation of eligibility rules, and prior to the start of any tournament.
  - b. If a player is found to be ineligible, said player shall be immediately disqualified, and all games in which the player played shall be forfeited.



When considering filing a protest, ask yourself the question, "Would this protest have been filed if my team had won?"

## **Appeals Process**

The Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee has established an appeal process to assist players, managers, coaches, and sponsoring American Legion posts with resolving problems. The right of appeal applies to any player, manager, coach, or officers of the sponsoring American Legion post. No level of the appeals process can be bypassed in the seeking of a decision.

Level 1 – Team manager. Present the problem to the manager of the American Legion Baseball team.

Level 2 – Post Commander of the sponsoring American Legion post. An American Legion post has the ultimate responsibility for the jurisdiction and supervision of the American Legion Baseball team playing under the name of the sponsoring post. Present the problem to the post commander, who has the authority to sustain or override any decision made by the team manager.

Level 3 – District Baseball Chairman. The district baseball chairman supervises all American Legion Baseball teams within the district and is given authority by the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee and The American Legion Department of Ohio to make rule interpretations and impose penalties for infractions.

Level 4 – Region Commissioner. The region commissioner is a member of the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee and has the authority to make rules interpretations and impose penalties for infractions.

Level 5 – Department Baseball Committee. The Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee is the governing body for American Legion Baseball in Ohio and is empowered by American Legion National headquarters to interpret the rules within the Department of Ohio.

Level 6 – Department Executive Committee. The American Legion Department of Ohio Executive Committee is the governing body of all American Legion programs in Ohio and is empowered by the National Constitution of The American Legion.

Level 7 – National Baseball Appeals Board. The American Legion Baseball National Appeals Board, and agency of The American Legion National headquarters, is the official and final governing body for the interpretation of American Legion Baseball rules. The decision of the National Appeals Board is final and may be enforced by a court of law.

The consensus of a majority of the American Legion Baseball National Appeals Board shall constitute the board's ruling.

The board will not act on any appeal which has not followed the established appeal process of the Department of Ohio.

An appeal will be considered received by the board if made by registered mail, fax, or email. Any appeal filed after twenty-four (24) hours will not be considered. An appeal to the American Legion Baseball National Appeals Board shall be directed to:

The American Legion National Appeals Board  
 PO Box 1055  
 700 North Pennsylvania Street  
 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
 P (317) 630-1213  
 E [baseball@legion.org](mailto:baseball@legion.org)


Email protests will not be accepted unless forwarded by the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee chairman, or the department baseball coordinator.

The appeals process is in place to resolve your problem. The appeal process must be followed in seeking the redress of any grievance involving American Legion Baseball rules. Only appeals pertaining to rules interpretations will be heard through the appeals process.

Any appeal involving a judgement decision by an umpire will not be heard.

No appeal shall be considered by the American Legion Baseball National Appeals Board until all established appeal procedures within the Department of Ohio have been exhausted, as certified in writing by the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee chairman or the department baseball coordinator.

## Transfer From #76 and Declaration Form #77

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL 

**Player Transfer Form #76**

**Please PRINT or TYPE**

This form is to be used by players who have been cut and released by an American Legion team. Released players may be eligible to transfer under rules 3B.1 or 4.D to the next closest team.

- American Legion Baseball senior players are required to play for the closest team unless released, in which case the player shall need to determine the next closest team using MapQuest ([www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)).
- If the player is unable to earn a spot on the roster of the second team, that player shall be allowed to play for the third closest team, etc.
- All parties involved understand that this transfer is valid from January 1 to December 31 of the current season only.
- All parties understand that the department baseball chairman must approve this transfer prior to placing player on National Form #1.

Permission is hereby requested for

Player's full name Player's date of birth

Parent's address, city, state, ZIP Parent's phone number

Player's high school High school enrollment Team's total enrollment

Player is hereby released from the following team:

Name of former team (print or type)

Player's signature (print and sign)

Parent's signature (print and sign)

Name of new team (print or type)

Team manager's signature and printed name (former team)

Manager's signature - Team 1 (print and sign) Manager's signature - Team 2 (print and sign) Manager's signature - Team 3 (print and sign)

Department Baseball Chairman's signature and date


This form must be filed with National Form #1. The team manager shall retain copy for his files.  
 This form shall be filed with department headquarters.

If transfer crosses a state border, both department chairmen must approve prior to placing player on Form #1.

Cooperating Department Baseball Chairman

This form is available online at [www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball)

Revised 02/2013

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL 

**Team Declaration Form #77**

**Please PRINT or TYPE**

This form is to be used by players who may have an option to:

- Play for the American Legion Baseball team nearest parent's or court-ordered guardian's legal domicile OR
- Play for the team nearest the school the player attends.

Authorization for this choice is outlined under Rule 4.C of American Legion Baseball Rules. See American Legion Rule Book for further clarification.

Player's name (print or type)

Parent's address (print or type) Floor number

I declare I am eligible under the National American Legion Baseball Rule 4.C to play for:

Name of American Legion team and sponsoring American Legion post number

Team's base school and enrollment Player's high school and enrollment

My parents and I understand that this declaration shall be valid from January 1 to December 31 of the current season only.

Player's signature (print and sign)

Parent's signature (print and sign)

Team manager's signature and printed name (print and sign)

- The department chairman must approve this form prior to online registration placing the player on the national form.
- To determine the next team, The American Legion shall use MapQuest ([www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com)). The shortest driving distance between the parent's domicile and/or the player's base school(s) shall determine the closer team.

Signature of Department Baseball chairman Date




Team manager shall retain a copy for his files.  
 Second copy shall be filed with Form #1 and filed with the department office.

This form is available online at [www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball)

Revised 02/2013

# Junior and Senior Tournament Rules

exceptions to these combined rules will be noted

1. Ohio American Legion Baseball tournaments are under the supervision of the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee and will be played at the time and place established by the committee.
  - a. All tournament games are played under the 2024 Official Rules of Major League Baseball, The American Legion Baseball rules, and as noted below.
- 1i. The Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee may prescribe such rules and regulations for tournament play as deemed necessary.
- 1ii. No manager, coach, or player may report after the designated check-in time without prior approval from the department baseball committee chairman. 
- 1iii. A manager, coach, or player may only leave the tournament site with the approval of the department baseball committee chairman.
  - a. Approval will be at the sole discretion of the chairman to grant permission for the manager, coach, or player to return to the tournament.
  - b. The American Legion Department of Ohio has taken this position in the interest of fairness, liability, and safety of all tournament teams, managers, and coaches.
  - c. Any player in a Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball tournament who departs the tournament to participate in football, or any other sports practice, shall not be permitted to return to and participate in the tournament.
  - d. Requests to depart the tournament for other reasons, i.e., medical, personal, etc., will be reviewed by the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee on a case-by-case basis.
- 1iv. All tournament games will be seven (7) innings, unless the game is tied, and extra innings are required.
  - a. All suspended games will be resumed from the point of suspension.
- 1v. No team will be required to play more than two (2) scheduled games in one calendar day.
  - a. The playing day begins at 8:00 a.m.
  - b. No tournament game will begin after 11:00 p.m. local time.
7. All teams will arrive at the tournament site as the scheduled check-in time arranged by the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee Chairman. 
8. Umpires for all tournament games will be under the supervision of the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee and the department baseball coordinator.
  - a. Umpires shall wear the official American Legion Baseball patch on their uniform or the official American Legion Baseball umpire cap.
9. Pitchers shall be restricted to five (5) warm-up pitches between innings.
  - a. A player coming to the mound as a pitcher from a defensive position shall have ample time to warm up.
    - i. This rule is to be interpreted liberally by the umpires.
10. If a pitcher throws 45 or fewer pitches in a game, that pitcher may return to pitch in a second game on the same day and may throw a combined total of 105 pitches in that day. 
  - a. Should a pitcher throw more than 45 pitches in the first game of the day, that pitcher is ineligible to pitch in the second game of the day. (Rule 1.R.3).
11. The Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee shall appoint an official scorer for each game, as well as a chief scorekeeper.
  - a. Upon completion of each game, all records, including pitch count documentation, will be delivered to the chief scorekeeper.
1. At least thirty (30) minutes prior to each tournament game there will be a coin toss to determine home and visiting teams.
  - a. At this time, managers will inform each other what uniform their team will be wearing.
    - i. This is done to avoid teams wearing like colors during the game, which can cause confusion.

13. During tournaments, the sponsoring post of each team will be held financially responsible for any damage incurred by members of their team while on tournament premises.

- a. Tournament premises include baseball facilities, hotels, restaurants, and other places the team may travel to.



The Beavers Field liaison for state tournaments is:

Tyler Sisson  
830 Harding Avenue  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
P (740) 438-2450  
[www.beaversfield.com](http://www.beaversfield.com)

## Exceptions to Combined Rules

### Senior Baseball State Tournament

1. The Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Senior State Tournament will be an eight team, double elimination tournament.
  - a. The winners of the eight region tournaments will automatically qualify for the state tournament.
2. Should a region tournament champion advise the region commissioner that the team will not have at least twelve (12) players available for either the state or the national region tournament, the region runner-up will advance to the state tournament, provided the team will have at least twelve (12) players available for the state and national region tournament.
3. There is no re-entry rule.
4. All teams playing in the state tournament must have a minimum of twelve (12) players in uniform and available at the start of each game on tournament play.
  - a. Affiliated and rostered junior players may play (Rule 6.D).
5. Only players who are listed on the official team roster, the manager, and coaches will be permitted in the dugout or on the field.
  - a. All others must remain away from the dugout, and should not communicate with players, managers, or coaches, unless communication is needed due to an injury.
6. A blind draw is held at the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee meeting.
  - a. The team on the bottom line of the bracket of each game in the first round will be the home team, who will occupy the third base dugout.
  - b. Managers and coaches are required to attend this meeting.
7. Starting with the second round of the tournament, and for each game thereafter, there will be a coin toss conducted by a member of the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee with both managers to determine the home and visiting teams.
  - a. The home team will occupy the third base dugout.
  - b. The winner's bracket team will have the choice of home or visitor for the state championship game.
    1. Should the elimination bracket team win this game, there will be a second game to determine a state champion.
      1. In this case, there will be a coin toss as previously outlined.





8. Following completion of the state tournament, the department baseball coordinator shall advise the state champion on all actions that need to be taken to certify that team to participate in the national region tournament.
  - a. In the event that the state champion cannot advance to the national region tournament, the state tournament runner-up will advance to the national region tournament and shall be declared the state champion and will represent The American Legion Department of Ohio.
    - i. The team advancing to the national region tournament must have at least twelve (12) players available for each game of the tournament.

## Junior Baseball State Tournament

1. The Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Junior State Tournament will be an eight team, double elimination tournament.
  - a. The winners of the eight region tournaments will automatically qualify for the state tournament.
  - b. A six team format will be used for regions not fielding junior teams.
2. Pairings for the state tournament will be determined the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee chairman, utilizing a pre-set bracket.
3. The state champion will advance, at their own expense, to the Mason-Dixon Region Tournament in Maryland.

## Tournament Protests

1. All protests of a tournament game shall be decided by the district baseball committee, the region commissioner, or the Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee chairman.
  - a. These entities have the power to disqualify or suspend any individual or team for violating District, Region, State, or National rules or regulations. 
2. In accordance with the Official Rules of Major League Baseball, all protests must be brought to the umpire-in-chief before the next legal pitch.
  - a. In addition, such protest must be made, in writing, and shall include, if applicable, a written report from the umpires. All protests must include the specific rule alleged to have been violated.
    - i. This written report must be given to a Department of Ohio American Legion Baseball Committee overseeing the tournament, regardless of the level of play.
3. All protests of player eligibility must be specific, with documented proof, and submitted prior to the start of the tournament.
  - a. If a player's eligibility is questioned after the start of the tournament, a protest can be initiated, but the alleged eligibility offense must have been found to have occurred after a game has been started. 
    - i. For example, a player has allegedly been found to be playing for a non-American Legion Baseball team while at the same time playing for an American Legion Baseball team while American Legion Baseball tournaments are being held.
      1. Documented proof is required to be submitted.
4. If a player is found to be ineligible, that player shall be immediately disqualified, dismissed from tournament, and all games in which the ineligible player played in shall be forfeited.
5. If a protest disqualifies a tournament team winner, the runner-up shall be declared the tournament champion.

When considering filing a protest, ask yourself the question, "Would this protest have been filed if my team had won?"



# The History of American Legion Baseball

American Legion Baseball is a national institution, having thrived through a world war, several national tragedies, and times of great prosperity as well as great despair.

The league still stands behind the traditional values upon which it was founded in 1925. American Legion Baseball has taught hundreds of thousands of young Americans the importance of sportsmanship, good health and active citizenship. The program is also a promoter of equality, making teammates out of young athletes regardless of their income levels or social standings. American Legion Baseball has been, and continues to be, a stepping stone to manhood for millions of young men who have gone on to serve their country or community, raise families or play the sport at the highest level.

**A modest beginning.** Community service has always been a core value of The American Legion. In 1925, this commitment was furthered to include a baseball program.



The league was first proposed at an American Legion state convention in Milbank, S.D., when Sioux Falls attorney and Department Commander Frank G. McCormick invited his close friend, Maj. John L. Griffith, to address the convention. Instead of a traditional speech, Griffith, who was also the collegiate commissioner of the Western Conference (now the Big Ten), spoke about the role athletics can play in the development of youth.

"The American Legion could well consider the advisability of assisting in the training of young Americans through our athletic games," Griffith said. Athletic competition teaches courage and respect for others, fostering their growth into active citizens, he explained.

The South Dakota convention agreed and passed a resolution urging the Legion to create an organized summer baseball league that started each June. National Commander James A. Drain backed the resolution, which passed that fall at the Legion's national convention in Omaha, Neb. It read:

"RESOLVED: That The American Legion ... inaugurate and conduct baseball leagues and tournaments for local championships, and that local champions determined by the competitions be given opportunity to compete in departmental, sectional and regional tournaments, and that a junior world series championship baseball series be conducted at each national convention ... "

The first program in the world to provide a national baseball tournament for teenagers, American Legion Baseball was born.

In 1926, posts in 15 states began to make Griffith's vision a reality. They organized and sponsored teams, drafted local schedules and conducted championship tourneys. Postseason tournaments at the state, sectional and regional levels culminated with a national championship. Only a few changes have been made to the format over the years. The tournament still has a similar setup: 64 teams play at eight regional sites, with eight teams going on to the World Series. The winning team receives a trip to Major League Baseball's World Series, a tradition dating back to 1926.

**A little help from their friends.** The first American Legion Baseball World Series was held in Philadelphia in 1926. Yonkers, NY, Post 321 beat a team from Pocatello, Idaho, capping off what appeared to be a successful first season.

The league, however, hit a few growing pains in its second year. In 1927, the Legion's national convention convened in Paris. With the organization's financial coffers stretched thin from the trip's expenses, the Legion couldn't fund a World Series. No champion was named and the future of American Legion Baseball looked bleak, as the inaugural season wound up costing more than originally planned.

But the Legion's Americanism director, Dan Sowers, worked to keep the league afloat. The tournament format needed \$50,000, and Sowers was determined to raise it. Early in 1928, he went to an executive meeting for professional baseball, hoping to reach a sympathetic ear. He found one in Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who pledged a \$50,000 annual donation from Major League Baseball. Legion Baseball resumed in 1928, and by 1929 participants were coming from every state and the District of Columbia.

Still, the program wasn't in the clear. Like other institutions, Legion Baseball fell on tough times during the Great Depression. In 1933, MLB's funds were sapped dry, and Legion Baseball was left without a sponsor. The annual \$50,000 donation was pulled, and it looked likely the national tournament would be abandoned indefinitely.

Again, Sowers set out to find a generous sponsor. Initially, he hounded big corporations, but he was concerned they'd treat to his fledgling baseball league as a public-relations arm. He turned to Frank Knox, a newspaper publisher and former department commander. Knox, who originally cautioned Sowers against using corporate sponsorship, contributed \$5,000 and gave Sowers letters of introduction to several other newspaper publishers. An additional \$28,500 was raised in donations from the Chicago Daily News, the Omaha World-Tribune, the San Francisco Chronicle, the Indianapolis News, the New Orleans Item-Tribune and the Atlanta Journal. Sowers received the final \$6,500 from his own boss, Col. Henry L. Doherty, president of Cities Services.

Legion Baseball soldiered on, even though some posts were still forced to run teams on shoestring budgets. MLB resumed its funding in 1935, starting with a \$20,000 donation and continues today supporting the program with an annual grant.

**American Legion Baseball in the modern era.** American Legion Baseball enjoys a reputation as one of the most successful and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues. Today, the program registers teams in all 50 states plus Canada. Each year young people, ages 13 to 19, participate. Since its inception in 1925, the league has had millions of players, including countless who have gone on to play in college and professional baseball, with 82 inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Legion Baseball also has a reputation for serving the young people who play for it. In college scholarships, the league annually awards a total of \$25,000 - \$500 for a player selected from each department based upon leadership, character, scholarship and financial need. Recently, the Legion passed a resolution allowing corporate sponsorship, in the hope of creating more financial aid for college. Diamond Sports currently funds \$25,000 in scholarships for the American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team. Eight players receive a \$2,500 scholarship and the "Captain" of the All Academic Team receives a \$5,000 scholarship.

In 1949, the national player of the year was first named through the arrangement of Robert Quinn, director of The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Fittingly, winners receive a trip to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., making them the only amateur athletes invited to the exhibit. The award is now named after George W. Rulon, who served as program coordinator from 1961 to 1987.

Three other recognition awards were established in the 1970s: the Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger RBI Award, the Rawlings Big Stick Award and the Bob Feller pitching awards. All recognize strong performances in the regional and national tournaments.

Over the years, plenty of other major corporations have joined Gatorade in sponsoring Legion Baseball. In the 1940s, Ford Motor Co. dealers supplied uniforms for local teams. Diamond Sports signed on as the "Official Baseball of the American Legion World Series."

**A prestigious pedigree.** Major League Baseball and American Legion Baseball don't have a formal partnership, but the two owe each other a tremendous debt of gratitude. MLB has sponsored Legion Baseball almost since its inception, and Legion Baseball has returned the favor, churning out major league prospects since the alumni base has been old enough to be scouted. The number of former Legion players who have gone on to the pros is far too large to chart. More than half of current major-leaguers played Legion Baseball. So did almost every working MLB manager, along with several former commissioners. In all, 82 program graduates are in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Naturally, Legion Baseball's alumni base includes some of the sport's most recognizable names. Yogi Berra played for Fred W. Stockham Post 245 in St. Louis and was once quoted as saying it was the most fun he ever had. Ted Williams suited up for a post in San Diego. Frank Robinson led his Oakland, Calif., team to the only back-to-back national championships in program history. Babe Ruth was too old to join when Legion Baseball started, but he spent the final years of his life promoting the program as its director of operations. Other prominent players include Justin Verlander, Ryne Sandberg, Roy Campanella, Dusty Baker, Albert Pujols, Greg Maddux and Chipper Jones.

Of all the notable former players, Legion Baseball had perhaps the greatest impact on former Cleveland Indians great Bob Feller. A self-described shy farm kid from rural Iowa, Feller cut his teeth playing for Variety Post 313. He says the experience taught him as much about life as it did baseball. Legion Baseball gave him an outlet to be discovered as a pitcher, but also gave him a chance to form lifelong friendships, learn to deal with letdown in athletic competition, and become better prepared for the mental and emotional strain of fighting in a war.

The first Legion alumnus elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame, Feller wrote a column for The American Legion Magazine in June 1963, expressing his love and appreciation for the league after it honored him with a plaque in 1962.

"Truthfully, I feel I should have given a plaque to The American Legion rather than receiving one from it," Feller wrote. He penned the column free of charge and admitted that he never endorsed anything he didn't believe in during his career, even for large sums of money.

Yet baseball isn't the only area where former players have excelled. Legion Baseball graduates have gone on to prominence in other career fields. Former Vice President Dick Cheney played for Post 2 in Casper, Wyo. Famed journalist and author Tom Brokaw played Legion ball in South Dakota, and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack was on a team in Pennsylvania.

In short, Legion Baseball graduates are proud contributors throughout our society and often are the most successful people in their respective career fields.



# THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Initial Last Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female

Membership ID# former member Post # Phone # Email Gender

**Please check war era and branch of service below:**

- Global War on Terror
- Gulf War
- Panama
- Lebanon/Grenada
- Vietnam
- Korea
- WWII
- Other Conflicts
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Navy
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Marines
- U.S. Space Force
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Merchant Marines (WWII only)

I certify that I have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or I am still serving.

Signed by applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name of recruiter \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are a new member, send this completed application with annual dues to The American Legion, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 (check [www.legion.org/join](http://www.legion.org/join) for dues amount), or take it to a local post. To locate a post near you, click on "Find a Post" at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).**

D17010

## DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received from \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ dues

Recruiter's name \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's phone # \_\_\_\_\_



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Detachment of \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Recruited by \_\_\_\_\_  
First Initial Last Initial Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State ZIP Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran through whom eligibility is established \_\_\_\_\_

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ Department of \_\_\_\_\_

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Relationship of applicant to veteran \_\_\_\_\_

Has applicant previously been a member of the SAL? \_\_\_\_\_ Where? \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion and apply for membership.

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Transmit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ annual membership dues

Signed by applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility certified by \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).**

D17010

## DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received from \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ dues

Squadron No. \_\_\_\_\_

Department of \_\_\_\_\_



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



### APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # and Location \_\_\_\_\_

/ /  Birth - 17  18 and older

Have you been a member previously?  Yes  No (If yes, fill in below, if known.)

Previous Unit City/State \_\_\_\_\_ ALA ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.**  
Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.  
**Membership pending approval of application.**

### ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through-Name of Veteran (if living, must be American Legion member)  Living  Deceased

If Living: American Legion Member ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased (If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.)

**Veteran served: (check all that apply)**

WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

Global War on Terror  Lebanon/Grenada  WWII

Gulf War  Vietnam  Other Conflicts

Panama  Korea

**Applicant's relationship to the veteran:**

Female Spouse  Male Spouse  Mother

Grandmother  Sister  Self

Direct Descendant (daughter, granddaughter)

**To Be Completed By The American Legion Post Adjutant/Officer**

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post Adjutant/Officer Membership Verification \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received from \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ dues

Recruiter's name \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's phone # \_\_\_\_\_





**Thank you, Jack & John!**

**You will be missed,  
and never forgotten**



**Beavers Field  
1651 Granville Pike  
Lancaster, Ohio 43130  
(740) 483-2450**

