

# **The American Legion - Department of Maine**

## **Baseball Rules and Regulations 2021**

[www.teamlinkt.com](http://www.teamlinkt.com)

American Legion Baseball Competition shall be played under the rules set forth in “**2020 Rule Book**” [referred to as National Rules] and adopted by the National Americanism Commission, The American Legion, National Headquarters, 700 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis, IN 46206, American Legion - Department of Maine, “**Baseball Rules and Regulations 2021**” [referred to as State Rules] and Triumph Books, “**Official Baseball Rules**” [referred to as Professional Rules, available through, Emblem Services.com].

The Maine Baseball Rules and Regulations, herein, shall apply and be used in conjunction with regulations set forth in the, National Rules, published by the National Commission of American Legion Baseball.

### **Purpose**

It is the duty of the Department Baseball Director and Baseball Committee to establish rules and regulations and policies, *not in conflict with National Rules*, for play within the Department of Maine, American Legion Baseball. Enabling healthy competition and promoting sportsmanship are key considerations in these rules.

All questions, disputes and protests within the Department of Maine – American Legion Baseball shall be decided by the Department Baseball Director or Baseball Committee in charge who shall have the power and authority to disqualify, suspend or penalize any person or team for violating Department of Maine or National Commission – American Legion Baseball rules or regulations.

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## **Team and Player Requirements**

1. Senior American Legion Baseball competition in 2021 is open only to players born on or after January 1, 2002 (any player born before January 1, 2002 is not eligible). Players born in 2009 or later are not eligible to play American Legion Baseball.
  
2. Junior American Legion Baseball competition in 2021 is open only to players born on or after January 1, 2004. Junior Legion Baseball shall be limited to players' ages 13 to 17 years inclusive. Individuals 12 years old or younger are not eligible to play American Legion baseball.
  
3. Team rosters shall not exceed eighteen (18) players.
  - a) Only in the case of death or if a player is placed on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States may the player personnel of a team be changed after the Form 1 has been submitted. Any such change must be authorized by the Department Baseball Director for competition within Maine and by the National Director of the Americanism Commission for tournament play outside of Maine.
  
4. Background checks must be completed for all non-player personnel who have game access to the team dugout or bench area or who have regular contact with team players (i.e. Managers, Coaches, Trainers, other volunteers). Not more than five (5) such individuals may be listed on the team Form 1. American Legion Baseball-Dept. of Maine will pay for no more than two (2) background checks per team. Individual teams shall be responsible for purchasing background checks exceeding two (2).
  
5. *All teams must have at least one (1) tryout before the season begins. Try-out(s) must be held between May 1, 2021 and June 10, 2021 inclusive. The Zone Commissioner shall be informed of the try-out dates and he must be provided with a list of all who attended each try-out within 24 hours following each try-out.* Notification of any tryout must be made to

all schools in the team's drawing area. Teams are not permitted to release players unless the Player Roster (Form 1) has a full complement of 18 players. All requests for player releases must be submitted in writing, by the releasing team, to the Legion League Commissioner. The Department Baseball Director **must** give his approval before any player is granted a release from one team to another. All releases end on December 31 of the year in which they were granted. If the released player has remaining eligibility after that date, he must return to the team granting his release.

6. American Legion Baseball teams must go online to complete a team application with the National Legion Baseball Commission at [www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball). The Department Director must approve the application. National Legion will send the team a *new* logon and password. Teams have until May 15, 2021 to pay the required insurance fees and all state and national fees using a credit or debit card only. Failure to meet the deadline will result in a \$200 fine paid to Department of Maine. Once all fees have been paid teams are required to file online their Player Roster (Form 1) before the first game of the season. Checks for fine payments must be made out to, "American Legion, Department of Maine". Teams will forfeit any games until all fines are paid. **Teams may not hold tryouts or play games until their insurance is paid!**
7. Teams must send the Legion Commissioner, before the first game of the season, the following documents; Form 1 (two copies), Form 2 (one copy), Form Risk Management – signed by the team manager or head coach (one copy) and one copy of a legible birth certificate OR a state I.D. card OR a Maine State driver's license OR a U.S. Government issued passport OR a U.S. Government issued military I.D. card OR a dependent I.D. card for each player listed on the Player Roster (Form 1). **DO NOT SEND ANY ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.** Records of birth must be a State Certified reproduction from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or Department of Health or other government agency authorized to produce birth documents. Notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital records, baptismal records, school records or

certificates are not acceptable and may disqualify a player from participation. Teams not certified by their first game will not be eligible to compete in American Legion baseball this year.

8. Each player must complete the National American Legion Form 2. Any player who lives at home or who is in college and who is on his parents health insurance must have his parents sign the Form 2. **Any player or team failing to complete and properly file Form 2 shall be deemed ineligible and disqualified from participation.**
9. Team coaches and managers may be non-legionnaires.
10. Teams may be sponsored by non-legion businesses or organizations. All outside sponsorship is subject to the approval of and under the control of the Department Baseball Director.
11. It is required that player's uniforms shall bear the insignia of the American Legion located according to rule. The insignia must be attached for all regular season and post season play. Windbreakers may be qualified by National regulations.
12. No firm or company whose advertisement reflects the sale or use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products shall be permitted to display such advertising on team uniforms or at ball fields where American Legion games are played.
13. **ALL TEAMS MUST** have a representative in attendance at the annual, "All Teams Meeting". Rules will be distributed and explained. Any team failing to have a representative present at this meeting will be fined \$200 and will be ineligible for American Legion Baseball play until a check payable to "American Legion, Department of Maine" is in the possession of the Department Director.

- 14.** All players must be dressed alike, in the team uniform. Players not dressed in the team uniform shall be deemed, “out of uniform” and shall not be permitted on the field of play from the time the game is started until it ends.

## Season and Game Requirements

15. The 2021 Season will start June 19, 2021 and must consist of a minimum of 16 games. The 2021 Season will end July 20, 2021.
  - a) In the event a scheduled game is not played due to a conflict with a high school post-season game, both team managers will notify the Legion Commissioner. Teams will have two weeks to catch up on any scheduled games missed due to high school baseball conflicts.
  - b) Team managers must submit to their Legion Commissioner a roster prior to their first game. The roster will have the following information; player's full legal name (no nicknames), school attending, home address, date of birth and age.
  - c) No team will be permitted to compete in more than two (2) games in any one day.
16. All games will be played under the official rules of professional baseball, "Official Baseball Rules 2019" as published by Triumph Books except as provided in "American Legion Baseball 2020 Rule Book" and "The American Legion – Department of Maine, Baseball Rules and Regulations 2021."
17. Teams shall play seven (7) inning games during the regular season. All tournament games shall be seven (7) innings.
18. The ten (10) run rule (a/k/a "mercy rule") shall be used in all regular season games.
19. During the regular season only, "Teams have the option to use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher at any time." (**American Legion Baseball, 2019 Rule Book - Rule G. Pg 8**)

**20. Designated Hitter:**

- a) During the Regular Season and for Zone Tournaments Senior and Junior teams may use the DH as described in the National Federation Baseball Rules 2018 if a DH is used.
- b) During State, Regional and National Tournaments Senior and Junior Legion teams must use the American League designated hitter rule as described in “Official Baseball Rules” if a DH is used.

**21. Re-entry:**

- a) Senior Legion and Junior Legion teams may withdraw and re-enter any starting player once, including a player who was the designated hitter, provided such player occupies the same position in the batting order whenever he is in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may NOT re-enter.
- b) If a team has used all its players (including re-entry) to avoid forfeit based on an injury, the opposing coach will designate a player to be allowed to play again. That player may not pitch. If this situation occurs as a result of a player ejection a forfeit will result.
- c) **No re-entry is permitted in state, Regional or National Tournament play.**

**22. Pitching Rule:**

No player may pitch more than a total of 105 pitches per day.  
**( American Legion Baseball, 2020 Rule Book – Rule R. Pg 14 & 60 )**

All Pitchers - with 4 days rest --- not more than 105 pitches



with 3 days rest --- not more than 80 pitches  
with 2 days rest --- not more than 60 pitches  
with 1 days rest --- not more than 45 pitches  
with 0 days rest --- not more than 30 pitches

- 23.** Each team must play a minimum of sixteen (16) games vs Maine American Legion teams to qualify for tournament participation. Regular season Legion games will be used to determine State Tournament participants.
- 24.** Only players and coaches who are registered on Form 1 are permitted on the playing field or in the coach's boxes. Coaches and players must be in like uniforms to be permitted on the playing field. There are no exceptions. Any person in uniform and not listed on the Form 1 must sign a waiver prior to the beginning of the season, a copy of which must be in the possession of the team during games. At least one adult listed on the Form 1 must be in charge of his or her team during league play at each game.
- 25.** All players must be dressed alike, in the team uniform. Players not dressed in the team uniform shall be deemed, "out of uniform" and shall not be permitted on the field of play from the time the game is started until it ends.
- 26.** Base coaches are required to wear a standard batting helmet with or without ear flaps (safety rule) when in the coach's box. Helmets must have the NOCSAE seal of approval. Non-compliance will result in ejection from the game after one warning.
- 27.** Visiting teams will be allowed twenty (20) minutes for hitting if they arrive 45 minutes or longer before game time.
- 28.** If the visiting team does not show for a game or call the home team in time to notify the umpires, they must pay the umpires fees to the home team. If the home team fails to field a team and the visitors travel to the

site of the game, the home team must pay \$2.00 per mile one-way travel to the visiting team. When games are postponed, notify the other team and umpires early to save money.

29. If a team drops from the league, all games that were played will be counted in the standings and the remaining games will be forfeited to the teams on the schedule.
30. Any team forfeiting one game or more will jeopardize their future participation in American Legion baseball. Future participation will be decided by the Baseball Committee.
31. All rained out or postponed games **MUST** be rescheduled promptly. The Zone Commissioner must be notified of the rescheduled date by 9:00AM of the day following any rained out or postponed game. The affected game must be played within seven (7) days of its original schedule date. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in a forfeit by the home team. Home field availability will not be an accepted reason for failure to schedule and play a make-up game. The home team will forfeit. If a date and location cannot be agreed upon between the two teams, the Legion Commissioner shall set the date and location for the game in question. League games take priority over any other games. **VIOLATION:** League schedule games will be forfeited. Only the Legion Commissioner or Baseball Director may make an exception.
32. **Suspended Games:** In the case of a regulation game being suspended due to darkness, weather, etc. the game will resume at the point of interruption, at the next scheduled meeting of the teams involved. If the suspended game is the last scheduled meeting of the season, the game will resume at the point of interruption on the next available for both teams. See Triumph Book, *Official Baseball Rules, rule 4.10.*

Suspended games are permitted. Suspended games will resume from the point of suspension at the next scheduled meeting of the teams involved. In the event the suspended game was the last scheduled meeting of the teams involved, the game will resume at the earliest date

possible. (Note: it is conceivable the suspended game could be played on the same day as, and prior to, a regular season game between one of the teams involved in the suspended game and another team.

Suspended games must be certified by the home plate umpire and by both team coaches. The written Statement of Certification must include the game status at the time of suspension, and it must be signed by the coaches of both teams and by the home plate umpire. Game status must include: date, location, score, line-ups of both teams, the inning in which the game was stopped, outs, batter, ball-strike count and location of base runners.

The Legion Commissioner shall be notified by the home team by 9:00AM of the day following the suspended game that a suspended game condition exists. The Statement of Certification shall be mailed or delivered to the Legion Commissioner by the home team within forty-eight (48) hours of the suspension or before the suspended game is resumed, whichever time is sooner.

**33.** Maine Board Certified umpires will be used in all games. The home team is responsible for securing the umpires. There must be at least two umpires for each game. No umpire may officiate any game in which an immediate family member is participating. The home team will forfeit with no written protest necessary. The Legion Commissioner must be notified. When only one umpire is available the visiting team will wait thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled start time for another umpire. Twilight games after July 4 played on fields with no lights will necessitate a fifteen (15) minute wait period. Only by mutual consent of both managers and the umpire will a game be played with only one umpire.

## **Player Eligibility**

- 34.** Read carefully the National rule which covers player regulations.
- 35.** If a player is found or known to be ineligible, he shall be immediately disqualified. All games in which the disqualified player participated in shall be forfeited. (National Rule 6.C)
- 36.** If a player is known to be ineligible because of age, having played with another team, not being properly released or playing in an area (Parent's Residence of Record) not assigned to his team, etc., notify the Legion Commissioner and the Department Baseball Director immediately by phone with a follow-up letter.
- 37.** All disputes concerning eligibility will be referred to the Department Baseball Director and the Baseball Committee who will take immediate action as outlined in the Department and National Rules. No exceptions will be made in determining eligibility. A second offense of these rules by the same team or manager will be considered UNSPORTSMANLIKE. (see Rule 39, Department of Maine Rules)

## Protests

- 38.** Any protest of a game must be made in accordance with the process described in *Official Baseball Rules* including that the protest must be rooted in an incorrect interpretation of or application of an existing rule and that it must be filed with the chief umpire before the next pitch is thrown. Any game protest continued beyond the end of the game must be in writing accompanied by a check payable to Department of Maine American Legion in the amount of \$50. The Department Baseball Director will appoint a three (3) person committee to adjudicate the protest.
- 39.** All questions, disputes and protests within the Department of Maine American Legion Baseball program shall be decided by the Department Baseball Director of the Baseball Committee. Read closely National Rule 5. Any protest or violation of State or National rules during games in league play must be filed with the Department Baseball Director within forty-eight (48) hours from the time of the infraction and must be documented by two (2) witnesses. Documentation must be in duplicate and typewritten. The Protest Board for league play in 2018 will be comprised of Baseball Committee members not directly involved with the protest. The findings of the Protest Board will be final. A \$50 check payable to, 'Department of Maine - American Legion', must be filed with the paperwork. If the protest is upheld the check will be returned to the claimant.
- 40.** The Baseball Committee is the final authority to interpret all State rules necessary for the good of the program. The Department Baseball Committee is composed of the Department Director, Field Director, Baseball Director, Sr. Legion Commissioner, Jr. Legion Commissioner and other Members.

## **Conduct**

- 41. UNSPORTSMANLIKE:** Any manager, coach, athletic officer, player or official, who conducts himself or herself in any unsportsmanlike manner, reflecting discredit on the program, while participating in any American Legion competition shall be removed from further participation. The Department Baseball Director shall be the sole judge on any infraction of the spirit and intent of this rule and his decision shall be final. Comments derogatory to the American Legion Baseball Program or Officials will not be tolerated.
- 42.** Any manager, coach, player, other team personnel or official pushing, hitting or manhandling any player, coach, manager, other team personnel or official will be suspended for three (3) games immediately by the Department Baseball Director. (Only by him and more if warranted) Any player fighting or any player entering a fight will automatically receive a five (5) game suspension for the first offense. The second offense in the same season will result in suspension for the duration of the season and tournament play. Should anyone be hospitalized, an indefinite suspension for those involved will be considered.
- 43.** Vulgar language or obscene gestures by managers, players, coaches, other team personnel or fans near the bench or dugout will not be tolerated. Any player, manager, coach or other team personnel ejected by the umpire will leave the complete playing area within three (3) minutes or forfeit the game. Any ejected player, coach, manager or other team personnel will automatically be ineligible to play or participate in a Junior or Senior American Legion game until he or she has served their suspension in the Division from which they were ejected. Any player, manager, coach or other team personnel ejected from a game is automatically suspended from the next scheduled game.

The team manager or coach must report by phone to the Legion Commissioner any incident resulting in an ejection immediately following the conclusion of the game. Failure to report the incident regarding ejected persons will continue the suspension until a report is made. Any game in which an ejected or suspended player, manager, coach or other team personnel participates will be forfeited for using Ineligible Personnel. The Legion Commissioner will check with both managers and umpires concerning the violation. He will submit a written report with forty-eight (48) hours along with his recommendations to the Field Director. The Field Director will notify the Department Baseball Director on actions he recommends to be taken.

Any player, manager, coach or other team personnel ejected by an umpire must leave the ballpark.

Suspended players, managers, coaches or other team personnel are not allowed at the ballpark during their suspension.

- 44.** Tobacco Rule: No player, manager, coach, umpire or other team personnel may use or possess any tobacco or so-called 'vaping' product or device on the field of play. The baseball game and practice fields and any spectator viewing areas are tobacco and 'e-cigarette' free zones.

## **Administration**

45. Dept. of Maine, American Legion Baseball is governed by the “Department Baseball Committee.” (see page 20)
46. All League issues or problems will go first to the Legion Commissioners, then to the Field Director before going to the Department Baseball Director for final disposition.
47. Legion Commissioners will approve their League schedules. Changes made to either game start times or to game locations must be approved by the Legion Commissioner. The home team must always inform the Legion Commissioner of any change to the printed schedule. A fifteen minute grace period is extended to all game start times. Any irreconcilable conflicts in scheduling will be decided by the Legion Commissioner after he confers with both teams.
48. If at the end of the regular season a tie(s) exists, the Legion Commissioner shall resolve it using the following methods in order: 1st) a single seven (7) inning game will be played on a neutral field or a site agreed upon by both managers; [No play-off game will be scheduled later than three (3) days prior to the start of the start tournament.] 2nd) the won/loss records of the teams involved in head to head competition will be used; 3rd) the regular season wins will be assigned a point value based on the success of the team that is defeated (i.e. Team A has a season ending record of 15-9, any win recorded against that team would result in 15 points. Team B has a season ending record of 4-20, any win recorded against that team would result in 4 points, etc.) the higher composite total will determine the victor; 4th) a coin flip between the team managers by the Legion Commissioner.
49. The Department closing date to submit paperwork or rosters to the Legion Commissioners will be before the first game. Mandatory paperwork shall include; player roster, copy of birth certificates and copies of Form 2’s. Post marked letters dated ***before your team’s first game*** submitted with National Form 1 will be accepted, only if in compliance with State Rule 6.



*Penalty:* Any game participated in before a team roster Form 1 and supporting documents are received by the Legion Commissioner will be forfeited. This will be strictly enforced.

- 50.** If upon documented proof any player is involved in substance abuse, the Department Baseball Director will be immediately notified. The player or players concerned will be given a choice of taking a drug test or being indefinitely suspended from playing American Legion baseball by the Department Baseball Director. If the subject(s) is/are suspended, the only way to be reinstated to play again is to be undergoing a recognized substance abuse rehabilitation program.
- 51.** When a struggle exists for the control of an American Legion Baseball Team which threatens to disband the team, the State Baseball Committee has the authority to appoint a person or persons to control that team. The Committee must consider the recommendation of the Legion Commissioner in these matters and may require a hearing of the parties involved and/or written statements from the people seeking control.
- 52.** The State Baseball Director and the State Baseball Committee has the authority to suspend any person with criminal convictions or defiance of American Legion Baseball Rules.
- 53.** The Sr and Jr Legion Commissioners will maintain a list of board umpires for their zone and forward two copies to the Department Director.
- 54.** Each Sr and Jr Legion Commissioner shall submit a Team Directory showing all Teams, Home Field location, Managers and Coaches (including phone numbers, mailing addresses and email addresses) to all teams in his jurisdiction and to the Field Director.

## **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **READ AND COMPLY WITH ALL 2021 STATE AND NATIONAL BASEBALL RULES**

#### **Uniforms**

1. All team uniforms must be like uniforms, including coaches and managers.
2. The American Legion Baseball Insignia must be worn on the left sleeve, except when sleeveless shirts are worn, when the Insignia must be sewn on the left breast or pocket. Reference, National Rule 1. V.1. Legion Insignia **MUST** appear on the uniform starting with the first game of the Regular Season. Silk screening of the insignia is **NOT** allowed.
3. No torn or frayed uniform will be allowed in competition.

#### **Baseballs**

***Per National Rule 1.A. 'Baseballs' it is mandatory that all Maine American Legion Baseball Games use the only the following baseballs:***

***American Legion Baseball Diamond D-1 – AL, Wilson, Baden, AD Starr or NFHS stamped***

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

All tournaments shall utilize the American League designated hitter rule as published in the Professional Rules 2020.

If your team expects to compete in any American Legion Baseball game, **every** detail on “OFFICIAL FORMS” must be properly filled out, including signatures of various officials and players. Player’s names must be listed in alphabetical order and typed on the Form 1.

**A LEGAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE WITH AN EMBOSSSED SEAL, A PASSPORT, A MILITARY ID OR A STATE OF MAINE DRIVER’S LICENSE WILL BE THE ONLY DOCUMENTS ACCEPTED AS PROOF OF AGE.**

**HOSPITAL, SCHOOL AND BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE AS PROOF OF AGE DOCUMENTS.**

**It is the responsibility of every manager and coach to read and comply with ALL rules pertinent to Department of Maine - American Legion, Senior or Junior Baseball.**

## Conclusion

**These Baseball Rules and Regulations have been distributed and presented to responsible Senior and Junior team officials attending the mandatory meeting of all teams. For further information contact David Gray, Department Baseball Director – Department of Maine.**

The Baseball Committee will convene the Fall Meeting – November 14, 2021 at 9:00AM, the Winter Meeting – February 13, 2022 at 9:00AM and the Annual Meeting – April 2022 at 9:00AM. All Meetings will be held at Department of Maine, American Legion Headquarters, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME. The Annual Meeting will start at 0900 hours and will be immediately followed by the All Senior Teams Meeting which will commence at 1000 hours. The All Junior Teams Meeting will commence at 1000 hours on TBD 2022. *The All Teams Meeting is a mandatory meeting!* (Rule13. Page 5)

## Important Dates

April 1, 2021: Deadline to notify Committee of team's interest to participate

“All Sr. Teams” Meeting: April 25, 2021 at American Legion HQ, Winslow, ME

“All Jr. Teams” Meeting: May 2, 2021

May 15, 2021: Deadline to register online and purchase insurance for 2021 season to avoid paying a \$200 late fee.

Regular Season: Start – June 19, 2021. End – July 20, 2021.

State Junior Tournament: July (date & location TBD)

State Senior Tournament: July 24-28, 2021 (Location TBD)

Regional Sr. Tournament: August 4 – August 8, 2021 at Shrewsbury, MA

Sr. World Series: August 11-16, 2021 at Shelby, NC

Baseball Committee Fall Meeting: Nov. 14, 2021 at 0900hrs - HQ, Winslow

Baseball Committee Winter Meeting: Feb. 13, 2022 at 0900hrs – HQ, Winslow

# DEPARTMENT BASEBALL COMMITTEE

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