



ARKANSAS

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL



2020

RULE BOOK

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Arkansas American Legion
Baseball Commission

State Chairman – Jeral Howard

Area 1 Commissioner – Bill Kincannon

Area 2 Commissioner – Bob Hays

Area 3/AA Commissioner – Jim Fink

Area 4 Commissioner – Mike Moore

15 & Under Commissioner – Elizabeth Frantal

Deputy Commissioners:

Jim Allison

Vicki Dauber (Web-Master)

Russell Goodwin

B. J. Green

Greg Harrison

Bruce Mason

Acknowledgements

Arkansas American Legion Baseball Seasons are dedicated to all veterans and service men and women serving around the world without whose sacrifices we would not have had the pleasure of enjoying our national pastime.

We would also acknowledge the many volunteers and sponsors whose tireless dedication to our American Legion Programs have given players an opportunity to develop their skills, personal fitness, and leadership qualities, while having fun. Thank you.

American Legion 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

Arkansas State Rule Book

Preface:

All Arkansas Legion Programs, regardless of classification, are mandated by the National American Legion Organization to use National American Legion Baseball Rules/Regulations as well as Major League Baseball Rules in the conduct of their season. Arkansas State Rules can be more restrictive than the National Rules mentioned above, but not more lenient. Arkansas State Rules are as follows and may differ from National Rules. Use National Rules unless one of these applies:

1. Team Classification

- a. Four (4) classifications will be played in Arkansas (Senior AAA, Senior AA, Junior A, Junior 15 & under)
- b. Senior AAA and Senior AA will play under Senior National Rules
- c. Junior A and Junior 15 & under will play under Junior National Rules
- d. Senior AAA and Junior A age and school enrollment criteria are as described in their respective National Rules.
- e. Senior AA age and school enrollment is as described in the National Rules with the exception of Senior AA teams with grade 10th, 11th, 12th school enrollments exceeding 2,000 may play Senior AA but can play 18 and under age players **ONLY** (No 19 year olds can play for these Senior AA teams).
- f. Junior 15 & under school enrollment and age criteria will be as directed by the State Baseball Commission.

2. State Configuration/Team Development & Recruiting

- a. Currently the State of Arkansas for all Classifications with 16 or more Certified teams is divided into 4 Areas. Area 1, Northeast AR; Area 2, Northwest AR; Area 3, Central AR; Area 4, Southern AR, with Area Commissioners assigned by the State Chairman to oversee Program management in each Area respectively.
- b. Classifications with less than 16 certified teams (i.e.,: Senior AA, Junior 15 and under) are assigned by the State Chairman a League Commissioner to oversee the Program's

management.

- c. Regardless of classification, requests for development(s) of "New Teams" for the upcoming year will be submitted through the respective Area/League Commissioner to the State Baseball Chairman no later June 1st each year.
- d. The State Chairman has the final approval authority for all "New Teams" and will assign Area and Classification status.
- e. Arkansas, in accordance with the National Rules for player recruiting/development is playing under "Plan B" recruiting procedures with an exception for those Teams granted permission by National to use "Plan A". See National Rules 3 and 4 for extensive explanations of appropriate recruiting rules.
- f. Under "Plan B" recruiting, Base Schools are required and grouping ("Clusters") of non-Base Schools in State area is permitted; however "Clusters" may at no time exceed grades 10th, 11th, 12th Enrollment Cap of 6,000. To assist in possible player recruiting conflicts, the State Chairman has the final approval authority for designating Base Schools and associated "Clusters" for teams. Regardless of associated enrollment total, the State Chairman can limit the number of schools within a given "Cluster". Base Schools and associated "Clusters" are permanent and can only change upon request and approval of the State Chairman – and not annually.
- g. Under "Plan A" recruiting there are not Base Schools or assigned "Clusters", but a 10, 11th, 12th enrollment cap of 6,000 still exists. "Plan A" teams cannot recruit or accept players through Transfers who live within a "Plan B" area and vice versa. "Plan A" teams must provide updated information to State/National annually – normally in the form of an Area Map depicting their requested zone arriving at State/National no later than April 15th each year.

3. Player Age Criteria & Requirements

Age Criteria and Requirements are as described in their respective National Rule Books with the following exceptions: 15 & under classification ages will be determined by age prior to July 31st versus Birth Year.

4. Player Dual Certification

- a. Only players ages 17 and under may Dual Certify; and only within their associated Arkansas Legion Programs.
- b. An unlimited number of 17 & under players may dual certify from the Junior A or

Junior 15 & under team to their associated Senior AAA or Senior AA teams.

c. Junior A and Junior 15 & under players may only play on 2 teams in a given year.

d. Junior A team players may not dual certify to Junior 15 & under programs and vice versa.

5. Team Registration/Certification

a. Registration fees with team certification forms and proof of insurance are due to National by May 15th and insurance must be bought before practicing or playing games.

Registration fees and purchase of insurance may be accomplished online at the National Baseball website and is required to be completed before the team's first game.

b. The Arkansas fee is \$425.00 per Senior AAA & Senior AA teams. (Note: Teams with more than 3 coaches will be assessed an additional fee.)

c. The Arkansas fee is \$425.00 per Junior A & Junior 15 & under teams. (Note: See above.)

d. Any team Registering/Certifying after May 15th must be approved by the State Chairman. A late Registration Fee until June 1st, will be \$200.00 per team; but may not apply to new teams.

e. A National fee of \$50.00 for Senior AAA/AA and a National fee for Junior (A) and Junior 15 & under will be \$25.00. Fees for all teams regardless of classification are due to National by May 15th.

f. All birth certificates of new players along with Form 2 and any transfer forms are due to Area Commissioners before their first game. No player needing a Form 76 or 77 may play until form is signed by State Chairman. (Note: Copies of individual Drivers License and/or ID's are now acceptable in lieu of their Birth Certificates.)

g. Birth certificates of new players, Form 2s, and any Transfer 76, 77 declarations must be verified by Area Commissioners prior to final submission of Form 1 (Rosters) to State Chairman. (Note: Again, Commissioners may accept a copy of an individual's Drivers License or ID in place of their Birth Certificate.)

h. Teams must register and provide team roster via the National Baseball Website. Final team rosters must be submitted to the State Chairman no later than June 22nd. Any team roster (Form 1) not submitted and correct by this date may cause the team to be disqualified for Tournament play for that year.

6. Regular Season and Regular Season Tournament Play

- a. Respective National Senior/Junior American Legion Baseball as well as Major League Baseball rule books will be used.
- b. Area Coaches and Tournament Directors may establish appropriate time limits and run rule margins for regular season games and regular season tournament play (i.e.: 7-inning or 10 run – 5 innings may not apply).
- c. For Junior 15 & Under League, see Arkansas 15 & Under Rules and Regulations File at www.arkansasamericanlegionbaseball.com.
- d. Registered Arkansas American Legion umpires will be used for regular season games as well as regular season tournament play.

7. Arkansas Area & State Tournament

- a. Respective National Senior/Junior American Legion Baseball as well as Major League Baseball rule books will be used.
- b. Only 7- inning games and 10 run rule after 5 innings will apply, with the only exception, the Arkansas 15 & Under League as described by their Rules and Regulations File at www.arkansasamericanlegionbaseball.com.
- c. Registered Arkansas American Legion umpires will be used for all Area/State tournaments.
- d. State tournaments will be held for all classifications, however Junior program teams may go through Area tournaments to determine the qualifying State tournament teams. There must be at least 4 teams to have an Area tournament. The State Baseball Chairman will decide how to reach this number of teams, but the seating for each Area Tournament may be decided by the Area Commissioner and Coaches.
- e. Any team during Area or State tournament play that is able to continue play but refuses to do so will automatically be removed from further tournament play that year and the next.
All Area and State Tournaments must be finished to completion.
- f. If during Area and State tournament play a team is declared ineligible or is ruled to have forfeited a game, the tournament will continue and will not be restarted. The records of the teams remaining in the tournament will be adjusted to reflect all forfeited games, but the bracket placement of the remaining teams will not be changed if the forfeit occurs after the start of game one on the second day. If the forfeit occurs before the start of game one on the second day of the tournament, the bracket placement of the teams will be changed.

- g. All Area Tournaments are under the supervision of the Area Commissioner. The Area Commissioner will always be the tournament director. All playing decisions will be determined by the Area Commissioner and/or State Chairman.
- h. The Area host team must pay the Area Commissioner's expenses as tournament director if needed. This includes travel, meals and room expenses.
- i. All broadcast rights to Area and State tournaments are the property of the American Legion Baseball Commission. No broadcasts will be allowed without prior approval of the State Baseball Chairman.
- j. In Area and State Tournaments as well as Regular Season and Regular Season Tournament play, any incident not covered by State or National rules will be decided at the discretion of the State Baseball Chairman and the State Baseball Commission.

8. Dual Participation (Player & Team)

- a. Players may dual participate with a different organization by filling out the National form until a specified date determined by the Arkansas Legion coach or manager; This form must be authorized by the State Baseball Chairman.

CLARIFICATION: The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Any American Legion Baseball player missing any portion of an Area or State American Legion tournament because that player participated in another non-sanctioned baseball event such as exhibition game, tournament showcase, combine or other youth programs shall be ineligible for further post-season tournament play that year. Dual participation shall in no way interfere with a player's responsibility to his American Legion Baseball Team. Once their respective Area and/or State Tournament play has begun, a player who leaves to participate in any other baseball event will be ineligible to return. Coaches/Managers that knowingly fail to report this violation will not be allowed to continue and risk their entire team being disqualified.

- b. American Legion baseball teams may not participate in any other sanctioned league. This will void their eligibility to play in their Area and/or State tournaments. They may, however, participate in Legion tournaments that have non-Legion teams.
- c. During the regular season, Arkansas Legion teams may play non-Legion teams, but must, during their regular season, play at least 5 games against legally certified Arkansas

American Legion teams in order to qualify for their respective Arkansas Area/State Tournaments. This same 5 game requirement applies to each individual Arkansas American Legion player submitted on the team's Official Form 1.

9. Arkansas Protest Rules

- a. All protests of player eligibility must be specific, with definite written proof and sent to the appropriate Area Commissioner. The protest must be accompanied by a money order, cash, or cashier's check of \$100.00. The fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. If the protest is denied, the fee will be used by the Commission to promote Arkansas American Legion Baseball.
- b. If it is determined that a Post or person representing a Post has deliberately submitted false information with their certification papers, then that team shall not be allowed to participate in tournament play during the year of the infraction and for the year following. In addition, the person who intentionally submitted the false information shall be removed from American Legion Baseball for a term decided by the Baseball Commission.
- c. If a player is found ineligible, he shall be disqualified immediately. All games in which the player participated shall be forfeited and the team fined \$100.00. If a team certifies an illegal player they will be fined \$100.00.
- d. Protests involving judgment calls by an umpire will not be accepted or tolerated.
- e. Protests of official Major League Baseball rules during actual game conditions must be filed with the chief umpire before the next legal pitch is thrown. The protest must indicate the rule number in violation or the protest will not be allowed. The protest if legal must be decided before the game will continue. If the protest, if legal, is disallowed the fee of \$100.00 will be charged.
- f. Protests involving playing regulations (i.e. uniforms, patches, etc.) will not be accepted after the first pitch. In the event a team fails to comply with a playing rule, the tournament director may give the team a reasonable time to correct the infraction.
- g. All protests of player eligibility during tournament play must be filed in writing, with proof, to the tournament director. Protests must be resolved before play continues. Tournament directors must not allow an ineligible player to participate upon learning of his ineligibility.
- h. The umpire in chief must immediately notify the tournament director of a protest and this must be settled before the game is allowed to proceed. All protests must be filed

according to the guidelines above. (Specifically: paragraphs e, f, and g above.)

i. All protests and appeals must be filed under Department jurisdiction and follow the steps listed below. STEPS:

- (1) The Area/League Commissioner
- (2) The State Chairman
- (3) The Department Americanism Chairman
- (4) The National Baseball Appeals Board

10. Pitching

- a. Senior AAA, Senior AA, Junior A pitch count is as depicted in their respective National American Legion Rule Books.
- b. Junior 15 & under pitch count is as depicted in the pitching chart outlined in the Arkansas Junior 15 & Under Rules and Regulations File located at www.arkansasamericanlegionbaseball.com.
- c. Regardless of program classification, the maximum of 2 appearances in a 3 day period applies.
- d. Penalty for non-compliance of pitch count and/or appearance rules are as described in their respective National American Legion Rule Book.

11. Umpires:

- a. The American Legion Baseball Program sanctions the use of umpires listed in the Arkansas American Legion Umpires Registry only.
- b. The use of registered umpires is required for all regular season games/tournaments and required for Area and State Tournaments. An umpire manual for Legion is on the National Web site and each umpire should become knowledgeable with its rules and regulations.
- c. All umpires must be State registered and have paid their dues by May 15th to be eligible for any Area or State Tournament. The fee will be set by the Director of Umpires and the State Umpire Chief.

2020 Dates to Remember

- January 25 State Meeting Morning: Commissioners. NLT Noon: Coaches.
- April 15 Plan A Zoning Maps to State Chairman. Five copies of Arkansas Rule Book to National Office.
- May 15 Deadline to purchase team insurance and pay Team Certification Fees online. File state senior tournament site with National Office.
- June 1 Late registration final date.
- Before 1st Game Deadline to have Birth Certificates, Form 2's and all Waivers 76's and 77's to Area Commissioners. (Drivers Licenses & ID's are acceptable.)
- June 5 – 9 Junior 15 & Under State Tournament (Cabot)
- June 22 Deadline to have Form 1's to State Chairman (All Classifications)
- June 21 - July 4 AR Athletic Association Dead Period
- June 26 - 30 Junior Areas (Locations TBD)
- July 6 – 12 AA State Tournament (Location: TBD)
- July 10 – 14 Junior State (Conway)
- July 17 – 20 1st RD Senior State (Conway)
- July 24 – 28 Final RD Senior State Tournament (Conway)
- July 30 Date to certify Senior Winner To National
- August 5 – 9 SR Regional Tournament (TBD)
- August 13–18 World Series (Shelby, NC)