



# 2017 IOWA RULES SUPPLEMENT THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

## Rule 1. National Rules

Rules from the National Official 2017 Rule Book, American Legion Baseball, will be followed. Iowa will adhere to the national guidelines. Coaches will adhere to National pitching standards, as stated in Rule 1.R. Iowa will utilize Player Recruiting Plan “B” with base school recruiting guidelines.

## Rule 2. Registration

- A. All teams in the Department of Iowa Senior American Legion Baseball Program will pay a non-refundable **\$275 registration fee (online at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org))** by 4:30 p.m. by February 28, 2017. **\$50 of the fee will be kept by the National Headquarters, in accordance with** RESOLUTION NO: 9, dated May 6-7, 2009, and National will send Iowa its portion of the fee (\$225).
- B. Player indemnification forms will be required on each player, along with a copy of the driver’s license/government identification/birth certificate AT DEPARTMENT (state Legion) HEADQUARTERS by April 10, 2017.
- C. Teams will not be allowed to conduct try-outs, practices or play any games prior to the teams’ American Legion Post and/or outside sponsor purchasing **Group Accident, Medical and Liability Insurance**. Insurance must be purchased **online at time of registration**, through the National Legion Baseball website, from **S.A.VanDyk**, The American Legion’s agent of record.
- D. Background checks on all managers, coaches, and team volunteers – as listed on the registration – must be conducted through Protect Youth Sports. Permission to conduct the background check, by Department authority, from **each individual must be made through the national online registration website** and approval will be verified by the Department administrator. Once approval of the team is given (as indicated online), the team may pay their insurance and registration fees. Apply online for the background check after January 1, 2017.

## Rule 3. Certification

- A. The online team **roster** and all information must be entered by **April 10, 2017**, at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).
- B. Iowa allows an 18-player roster.
- C. In completing the Team Entry Form, each player’s full name, showing first, middle and last name as they appear on his/her official Iowa identification. Iowa’s federally mandated identification/driver’s license system **is** officially recognized. If asked, the player **MUST** have his/her original identification at the game site!
- D. The player’s full name and address, as it appears on official identification, along with the other required information, should be typewritten in the line specified for each player.
- E. School enrollment totals **will be verified by the Department Chairman at time of roster certification. The national website offers an up-to-date listing of school enrollments.**

- F. Legal residence is defined as the residence of the parents or legal guardian of the player. Such legal residence, as defined by law, is the precinct in which the parent or guardian votes.
- G. Should a local American Legion Post, or County organization sponsor more than one team, the DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE must approve the boundary lines of the city and determine which team the player will be on. See Player Recruiting Plan “B” in the National rule book! Players will not be allowed to SWITCH teams.

#### **Rule 4. First-Aid and Medical**

- A. All teams must carry an adequate first-aid kit to all games, and will have it available in the dugout or readily accessible.
- B. The Host Team at each game will have access to emergency medical treatment. A member of the local EMT or First Responder team is recommended to be present during tournament warm-up and play.

#### **Rule 5. Game Requirements (Department Tournament)**

- A. Each team must have a minimum of 35 innings of play (under American Legion baseball guidelines) as a duly certified team to be eligible for District and Department tournament play.
- B. No team shall play more than two (2) tournament games per day (a playing day begins at 8 a.m.). No games will be scheduled to start after 11 p.m. unless weather or tournament game circumstances prohibit completing the tournament in the scheduled timeframe.
- C. The Department Senior Baseball Chairman or his representative, may require examination of all Official Score Sheets, signed by both umpires, and must be furnished, upon request. Teams may be ruled ineligible to compete in the Department Tournament if score sheets cannot be provided.
- D. All Department **tournament** games will be nine (9) innings, unless by the consent of the Department Baseball Chairman and both coaches, the game is shortened to seven innings due to 10-run rule. Games may be terminated after seven (7) innings by mutual agreement of both coaches **prior** to the start of the game if one team is leading by ten (10) runs.
- E. In cases where a game is called because of weather, electrical failure, wet grounds, etc., game will continue in accordance with National guidelines and the Official Major League rulebook.
- F. Department Tournament may revert to a single elimination, as determined by the Department Baseball Committee.

#### **Rule 6. Equipment**

- A. All bats will meet the BBCOR requirements outlined for American Legion play.
- B. All players are required to wear a double flapped, ear-protected helmet while batting, running bases, or on deck. All batting helmets must meet the N.O.C.S.A.E. specifications and bear the N.O.C.S.A.E. stamp on the outside of the helmet. Bat boys/girls must **at all times** wear a double-flapped, ear-protected helmet while on the playing field.

- C. Catchers are required to wear, in addition to normal catchers' equipment: a safety helmet, throat protector and protective cup. For the purpose of this rule, any catcher's mask that has an extended metal throat protector is still required to have a second throat protector attached. **Umpires and tournament officials are instructed to halt any game until this rule is complied with.**
- D. When warming-up a pitcher, a third player will be present to act as a safety person, in case a loose ball or foul ball is hit in the area where the warm-up is taking place. The catcher WILL wear the same protective mask as stated in Rule 6.B above.
- E. The coach WILL wear a protective helmet while in the coaching box – on FIRST BASELINE AND THIRD BASELINE. He can wear a single, double or no flap helmet. If he does not have a helmet - that coach cannot remain on the field.
- F. Rules mandate the coaches remain in the coach's box until the ball is put into play. (For safety reasons, MLB will not allow coaches to creep towards home plate until the ball is in play). Coaches must have both feet inside the front of the coach's box. However, if the coach wants to move away from the plate - out the back of the box, MLB will not mandate he remain in the box. MLB considers this a safety rule. If a coach is outside the box (closer to home plate) he will be warned once and 2nd infraction he will be ejected. If he is out of the back of the coach's box this is not considered an infraction.
- G. If the umpire observes any violation of these rules, he shall direct the violation to be corrected. If the violation is not corrected within a reasonable time, in the umpire's judgment, the umpire shall eject the offender from the game, and disciplinary action, as determined by the Department Senior Baseball Chairman/Committee shall be imposed.

#### **Rule 7. Department Championship Tournament**

- A. The Department Tournament will be May 6-7, 2017, as determined by the Department Baseball Committee.
- B. A coin toss will be made to determine a home team at **all** Department Tournament games.
- C. The Department Baseball Committee may revert the Department Tournament to a single-elimination, if the tournament would not be completed by May 12, 2017.
- D. The Department Baseball Chairman, Vice Chairman, or their designated representative, will be present or available at all times throughout the Department tournament.
- E. The location of the 2017 Department of Iowa Baseball Tournament is Cascade/Dyersville, Iowa. Department Tournament pairings and game times will be listed on the website. Number of teams in the state tournament will be determined by the registrations received in accordance with Rule 3A above.

#### **Rule 8. Uniforms**

- A. Each player, manager and coach will have an **American Legion Baseball insignia patch** on his uniform. The insignia may be worn on the left sleeve or left breast of the uniform shirt and purchased from the National Emblem Sales (Item #720.420, 1-888-453-4466).
- B. Coaches and managers will be in proper uniform of his team as outlined above, and will wear the proper protective helmet when on the field (first and third baseline coaches).

**Rule 9. Protests (Other than game play)**

- A. All protests on the eligibility of players must be made to the Department Baseball Chairman, Department Vice Chairman; or designated representative that is present or available, before the game begins. The ruling will be final.
- B. Resolution No. 46, “American Legion Baseball Eligibility,” has been rescinded and all Iowa players will be in conformance with the National rules.

**Rule 10.**

No District or Department Chairman shall be permitted to act in any official capacity such as umpire, scorekeeper, etc.

**Rule 11.**

The use of any form of tobacco or alcoholic beverages by a player, coach, manager or umpire, while on the playing field is prohibited. Any violation of this rule will cause the individual to be removed from the game. Dug-outs are considered field of play.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The American Legion - Department of Iowa  
Establishment of Policy

**On October 7, 2012, The American Legion of Iowa Americanism Commission met in regular session and established policy concerning all programs and events associated and/or partnered, involving children and youth: When consulting with any youth participating in an authorized event, TWO adults will be present. Ex: two oratorical escorts per student will be required in the holding room, Boys State interviews, baseball tryouts/games, etc. This policy applies to ALL official programs and events recognized by The American Legion of Iowa.**

**On October 18, 2015, The American Legion of Iowa Americanism Commission met in regular session and established policy that participation in ANY program and event associated and/or partnered, constitutes consent to use of photos and promotional materials in print, television, radio, and any/all social media, for their use, as deemed appropriate.**

**On October 13, 2016, The American Legion National Executive Committee passed Resolution #16, stating individuals participating in American Legion programs at the national level, who “cannot or will not” meet the organization’s expectations for proper flag respect “will be removed from the program and not be allowed any further participation. Iowa American Legion programs will adhere to this directive.**

## **The American Legion of Iowa – Background Checks/Screening Baseball Program**

**Step 1:** Go online to the national website – [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org). Make application to have a baseball team and follow instructions to submit names for background check.

**Step 2:** Click on American Legion of Iowa. This will bring up two positions of ‘interest.’

**Step 3:** Click on Baseball under American Legion of Iowa on the right side. This will give you two options and you will click on ‘Apply For Position.’

**Step 4:** This will take you to an Application Form. It will tell you that you have 40 minutes in which to complete this form with all required information. This is a permission form for us to run the background check on you, and pay the required fees, in accordance with specific guidelines and criteria required by our insurance company, and mandated by the national organization. Once completed, click “Next.”

By having you fill out the form online through this process, it eliminates the possibility of typographical errors or identity problems created by a third party entering YOUR information. It also requires an ‘electronic signature. The administrator for The American Legion of Iowa will receive a message that you want to be a manager or coach of an Iowa American Legion baseball team, and is good for both junior and senior Legion teams. The administrator will check the name/s that you have listed on your team registration form and approve payment of the fee. If your name is not listed in the online registration, then The American Legion of Iowa will not pay the fee – so please make sure you list all pertinent individuals.

**Background Check Information:** SSN verification and address history, national criminal database search, national sex offender search, re-verification of criminal records, and alias names, are the categories Iowa requires.

Once that background check is done, the administrator will receive a report that gives only your name, a report ID#, and a recommendation to “Accept” or “Not Accept” you as a volunteer manager or coach, based on information received. The Iowa administrator does not have access to the information that is in your background check. If the administrator receives a “Not Accept” report, you will receive a letter that will give you information on how to refute the report through Protect Youth Sports. The American Legion of Iowa cannot accept you as a manager/coach until you resolve any issue in the report with Protect Youth Sports. The American Legion will NOT be involved in the process of disputing information.

*If you are in need of assistance or cannot find the permission form to order your background check (required), go to <https://opportunities.averity.com/ALlowa>, click on The American Legion of Iowa (not Auxiliary). That will bring up another 2 options and you will click on Baseball and then apply for position. Fill out the form completely and click 'submit' on page 2 of the form.*