



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

2026 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

January 14, 2026

TO: American Legion of Iowa Baseball Coaches & Managers
FROM: Department Baseball Chair and Committee
RE: 2026 American Legion Baseball Season

Dear Coaches and Managers,

We look forward to a great year of baseball. Please look through this letter and see the checklist included. The checklist covers items like where you need to go to register and pay, forms that need to be filled out, and other valuable information. Do not lose this letter or the checklist if you are planning to participate in the 2026 American Legion of Iowa Baseball season. Teams that fail to follow the instructions and deadlines will only delay or forfeit their certification for season or tournament play.

Registration Fees

- Registration fees for Senior Teams are \$450.
- Registration fees for Junior Teams are \$250.
- Insurance costs will most likely be increasing.

Registration Instructions

- All registered teams, Senior and Junior, must submit their roster forms by the due date even if your team is not participating in the Area or State Tournament.
- Players must have a valid State ID or Driver's License copy with their player form (Form 2).

Coaches and Managers

- Coaches must complete all annual background checks and abuse training by April 1st of the season, with no exceptions.

2026 Tournament Dates & Details

- Area Tournaments: April 18-19 & 25-26, 2026 (Locations TBD)
- State Tournament: May 2 or 2, 2026 (One Day Tournament, Location TBD)
- All registered teams must play in the Area Tournament even if your team is hosting the State Tournament. Failure to comply will forfeit the hosting of the tournament and possible participation.
- Applications to host the State Tournament must be submitted to Department Headquarters no later than February 14, 2026.
- Teams planning to host an Area Tournament must submit their application to Department Headquarters no later than February 14, 2026.

- Teams must provide written documentation of their intention to play in the Area Tournaments no later than April 1, 2026.

Where you can find updated information:

- Registrations and Insurance: <https://baseball.legion.org>
- Background Checks: <https://opportunities.averyt.com/ALlowa>
- High School Enrollment Figures: <https://high-schools.com>
- National's Baseball Resources (forms): <https://www.legion.org/baseball/resources>
- Coaches Certification: www.SportDev.org/Coach
- Uniforms and Patches: <https://emblem.legion.org>
- Department of Iowa: www.ialegion.org/baseball
 - Please check this periodically for updates and resources as they are made available

Contact Information:

- Department Chairman Mike Weber: 563-590-4993

Again, please be sure to look over the materials carefully and fill out all forms thoroughly. Any team that fails to follow through on completing the forms as stated or providing information to Headquarters in the format requested will be rejected and asked to resubmit.

Thank you for all you do for the program and your teams. If you have any further questions, please contact me. As stated, we look forward to a year of great baseball.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Weber
Department Baseball Chairman

Enc. Team Checklist



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF IOWA 2026 STATE BASEBALL CHECKLIST

Revised and Printed January 14, 2026

DATES & DEADLINES – Information will be updated online: www.ialegion.org/baseball

- **February 14** – Post and Team needed to host state tournament.
- **January** – Background checks & team registration for new season are available.
- **February 14** – Teams interested in hosting Area Tournament must notify the department.
- **February 14** – Baseball Committee meeting with coaches at Mid-Winter Conference. Areas & Department Tournament will be determined at this meeting. 11 AM Airport Holiday Inn – Des Moines.
- **April 1** – Registration fees due to National: <https://baseball.legion.org>.
- **April 1** – Player Indemnification Forms (Form 2) due to Department Headquarters (no exceptions/extensions). Team rosters due through National's site: <https://baseball.legion.org>. *Mandatory background checks and abuse training certification due.
- **April** – Rosters certified by Baseball Committee.
- **April 18-19 & 25-26** – Area Tournaments (TBD)
- **May 2 or 3** – State Tournament (TBD, 1 team already interested)
- **May 31** – Player Scholarship Forms are due to Department Headquarters. Winner will be named at convention.
- **August** – Regional Tournament (TBD) & World Series (Shelby, NC).

1. National Rules

Rules from the current National Official Rule Book, American Legion Baseball, will be followed. Iowa will utilize Player Recruiting Plan "B" with base school recruiting guidelines. American Legion Baseball adheres to MLB rules.

2. Registration – go to <https://baseball.legion.org>

All teams in the Department of Iowa Senior American Legion Baseball Program will pay a non-refundable **\$450 registration fee by April 1** of the current tournament year. \$50 of the fee will be paid to National Headquarters, in accordance with Resolution No. 9, dated May 6-7, 2009, and National will send Iowa its portion of the fee (\$400). Junior teams will pay a non-refundable \$250 registration fee by April 1 of the current tournament year. There is also a \$35 non-refundable administrative fee paid to National.

3. Player Indemnification Forms (Form 2)

Player Indemnification Forms (**FORM 2 of Current Season**) will be required for each player. Players may be required to produce a valid state ID or birth certificate upon request from any American Legion Official. Forms are due to Department Headquarters on **April 1** without exception or extension. Late forms will not be accepted. These need to be scanned and **mailed** to programs@ialegion.org or **mailed** directly to Department Headquarters: 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, IA 50309. No photos of the forms.

4. Insurance

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 The American Legion's agent of record. The sponsoring American Legion Post will assume liability for their team if this insurance requirement is not met prior to this requirement.

5. Mandatory Background Checks

Background checks on all managers, coaches, and team volunteers – as listed on the registration – must be conducted through Protect Youth Sports at <https://opportunities.avery.com/Allowa>. Please select American Legion of Iowa and then Baseball. Apply online for the background check after January 1 of the current tournament year. Due no later than **April 1**.



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6. Mandatory Abuse Training

The certification for abuse training is a direct response to satisfy the requirements of Public Law 115-126—Feb. 14, 2018. All who have direct contact with minors as part of a team staff are required to produce proof of completion of this training per law. As part of the background check, a free Abuse Training course is provided in a separate link from protectingourkids.com (Protect Youth Sports). Coaches who have completed this requirement through another organization (e.g. school) may forward proof to Department Headquarters if it meets the Federal specifications of the *Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017*. All who fail to meet the requirement are prohibited from coaching. Due no later than April 1.

7. Roster Certification

The team roster and all information must be entered online by **April 1** of the current tournament year at <https://baseball.legion.org>, through your team username/password. School enrollment totals will be verified by the Department Chairman at time of roster certification. Enrollment info can be found at <https://high-schools.com>. Once a roster is certified by the Department of Iowa, no changes may be made except for what is stated by National on page 42 of the rulebook.

8. Game Requirements (Department Tournament)

Games may be terminated after five (5) innings by agreement of both coaches prior to the start of the game if one team is leading by ten (10) runs. 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.

9. Equipment

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.

10. Uniforms

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; www.emblem.legion.org). 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).

11. Scholarship Applications

All scholarship applications are due to Department Headquarters no later than **May 31, 2026**. Coaches, managers, volunteers, and teams will not be permitted to exclude any applications or players for consideration if a player and/or their family applies. Any violation of this notice will lead to Department intervention and possible removal of that person(s).

12. The American Legion, Department of Iowa Americanism Commission Policies

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.

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.



American Legion of Iowa Baseball Area & State Tournament Host Application

Area & State Tournament Hosting Requirements

- Site should have two fields available for the weekend
- If there are 6 teams that play in the State Tournament, the tournament will be pool play
- A post should have a Tournament Director for the Area and State Tournaments
 - The Tournament Director needs to oversee:
 - Team Check In (All listed members of the roster including staff)
 - Score Keepers
 - Pitch Count
 - Umpires
 - Color Guard
 - National Anthem (Live preferably or recorded)
 - Announcers
 - Field Workers
 - Concession Stand (Optional at Area Tournaments – Post retains funds)
 - Admissions (Post retains funds)
 - Printed Programs (State Tournament only)
 - Code of Conduct read before each game on the field
- The amount of money from the Department will be determined by the Finance Committee and budget

Posts wishing to host the tournament will need to submit a letter to the Department of Iowa by February 14, 2026 for State and Area. A follow-up letter will need to be provided if chosen with a list of paid staff and volunteers helping.

A host site will be chosen at Mid-Winter based upon letters received. The number of teams will determine if anything needs to be changed from area tournaments.

Important dates are provided in the supplement/check list – please pay attention to Number 6 regarding coaching certification.

Area Tournaments will be the last 2 weekends in April.

State Tournament will be the first weekend in May.

*All fields with an * are required for the application. A letter of intent to host must also accompany this application form. Any forms submitted without all required fields and a letter will be rejected and returned.*



American Legion of Iowa Baseball Area & State Tournament Host Application

Hosting Post:

***Post Number**

***Post City**

***Host City**

Tournament Director:

***First Name**

***Last Name**

***Mailing Address**

***City**

***Zip Code**

***Phone Number**

***Email Address**

Commander Approval:

***Printed Name**

***Signature**

Adjutant Approval:

***Printed Name**

***Signature**

*All fields with an * are required for the application. A letter of intent to host must also accompany this application form. Any forms submitted without all required fields and a letter will be rejected and returned.*



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF IOWA 2026 POST INFORMATION

Revised January 14, 2026

TEAM NAME

BASE SCHOOL

ENROLLMENT (10,11,12)

SPONSORING AMERICAN LEGION POST

POST LOCATION

PRIMARY POST CONTACT NAME

POST POSITION

PRIMARY POST CONTACT EMAIL *REQUIRED

PRIMARY POST CONTACT PHONE

*This form is to ensure proper communication for teams and posts regarding season and post season play. This form is NOT official registration or an application to play American Legion Baseball.

You may scan/email (preferable) or mail this to Department Headquarters:

programs@ialegion.org

The American Legion of Iowa
Attn: Baseball
720 Lyon Street
Des Moines, IA 50309