



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF IOWA
2026 STATE BASEBALL RULES SUPPLEMENT**

Revised March 19, 2026

Rule 1. National Rules

Rules from the current National Official Rule Book, American Legion Baseball, will be followed. Iowa will adhere to the national guidelines. Coaches will adhere to National pitching standards, 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 nonrefundable \$450 State registration fee \$100 National fee and a \$25 Administration fee (online at baseball.legion.org by 4:30 p.m. on April 1 of the current tournament year.
- 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 1st of the current tournament year.
- 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 the American Legion’s agent of record.
- D. Background checks and Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training Course is required for all managers, coaches, team volunteers & players age 18 years and older every year after January 1st. Background checks are to be completed online at <https://opportunities.averity.com/portal/ALlowa>. When a Background check is requested you may conduct Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training Course through Protect Youth Sports.

Rule 3. Certification

- A. The team roster and all information must be entered online by April 1st of the current tournament year at baseball.legion.org, through your team user name/password.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.

- F. 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 21 innings of play (under American Legion Baseball guidelines) as a duly certified team to be eligible for 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 seven (7) innings, 10-run mercy rule after five innings of play or 4½ innings if the home team has the last at-bat.
- 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. Umpires must check and approve all equipment (including uniforms) before the day of game play.
- B. All bats will meet the National rules.
- C. 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 always wear a double-flapped, ear-protected helmet while on the playing field.
- D. Catchers are required to wear, in addition to normal catchers’ equipment: a safety helmet, throat protector and protective cup. For 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.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.

- G. 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.
- H. 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. Tournament play and dates will be determined by the number of registered teams and determined by the Department Baseball Committee.
- B. A coin toss will be made to determine a home team at all Tournament games.
- C. The Department Baseball Committee may revert the Department Tournament to a single elimination, if the tournament would not be completed by July 31.
- D. The Department Baseball Chairman, Vice Chairman, or their designated representative, will be present or available always during tournament play, District, Area, or Department.
- E. The location of the current Department of Iowa Baseball Tournament is to be determined. Number of teams in the state tournament will be determined by the registrations received.

Rule 8. Uniforms

- A. Umpires must check and approve all uniforms (players and coaches).
- B. 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.
- C. 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 in writing to the Department Baseball Chairman, Department Vice Chairman; or designated representative that is present or available, before the first day of the tournament. The ruling will be final.

Rule 10. Chairmen Caution

A District or Department Chairman is advised against acting in any official capacity such as umpire, scorekeeper, coach, manager, etc. for the reason of a potential conflict of interest.

Rule 11. Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Prohibition

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.

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

Step 1: Go online to <https://opportunities.averity.com/portal/ALlowa>.

Step 2: Click on American Legion of Iowa.

Step 3: Click on Baseball under American Legion of Iowa.

Step 4: This will take you to an Application Form. 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 “Reject” 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 “Reject” 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 need 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.