



## **THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE 2024**

### **IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES 2024**

On-Line team registration begins each **JANUARY 1st** with a deadline of **FEBRUARY 15th** for all teams to register.

All teams have to pay their fees and purchase their insurance on-line by **MAY 15, 2024** and also have their **Gamechanger account name sent to the Chairman.**

All coaches and staff must complete their background checks and Pure Baseball Adult Awareness training before **May 15th** of each year. The chairman has to submit all approved teams by this date. Other staff and coaches can be added after this date.

Teams intending to give a player a release must do so prior to **JUNE 22, 2024.**

Players wishing to cross the State Line must have written permission from both DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN prior to **JUNE 22, 2024. NATIONAL FORMS ALB#76 & 77** must be filled out in their entirety.

The deadline for team entry into the New Hampshire American Legion Baseball Program for the 2025 season is **NOVEMBER 1, 2024** unless agreed upon by baseball committee approval.

**THE NATIONAL FORM #2** complete with a proper **original birth certificate** for each new first year player (Prep, Junior and Senior program), must be in the hands of the District Director for the senior program and the Chairman for the junior and prep program prior to the first District Game or not later than **JUNE 22nd 2024**, whichever occurs the earliest. The NH deadline for you to have your roster completed online is **JUNE 22nd 2024. NO EXCEPTIONS BY OUR NATIONAL RULE.** The national deadline for our Chairman to approve and submit all NH legions teams is **JUNE 30th, 2024.**

### **TEAM ENTRY AND CERTIFICATION**

1. Deadline for team entry into NH American Legion Baseball program is no later than November 1st of the previous year. REQUESTS TO CHANGE BASE SCHOOL for the 2024 season will be no later than February 15, 2024.

2. It is each team's responsibility to see that the National FORM #1 has been filled out on-line. **It is MANDATORY that the hard copy FORM #2's have been filled out for each player trying out for your team prior to or at the first team meeting or try-out.** A **COPY of the FORM 2** for each player that makes your team must be in the hands of the District Director prior to the first District game or not later than June 22, 2024, whichever occurs first. (If a player is dual-rostered, each team must have a FORM #2 in its possession for that player and also turn in to the proper Director for both the Senior and Junior team that player is playing for).

**A copy of each teams full season schedule must also be submitted to the director along with the Form #2.** **REMEMBER**, once your **Form 1 (Roster)** has been filled out and submitted online and it is approved and forwarded by your district chairman or director, it cannot be changed. It becomes an official document once it is forwarded to the National Legion office.

**Important: Each team must keep its original copy of a players Form 2 during the whole season and have it available every game during the full season. A copy of the Form 2 must be given to each the senior A and B Director and the Chairman for the junior and prep players. This also follows suit with a Form 76, 77 or form 6 if applicable.**

a. If a team does not comply with this rule prior to their first District Game, the penalty will be a forfeit and the game may not be played.

b. If both teams do not comply with this rule, the Chairman must be Notified within 24 hours and he will reschedule the game.

3. Each new first year player's (Prep, Junior or Senior player) birth certificate will accompany the hard copy Form #2. No player may participate in the program until a proper birth certificate has been submitted and accepted by the responsible Department Baseball Committee official. NOTE: Refer to National Rule Book for explanation as to what is proper record of birth to be submitted. (Refer to National Rule 2, E.)

4. The use of the National Form #6 will be mandatory for all players who are participating for another baseball program during our legion baseball season. These forms shall be submitted with each teams other paperwork. This form is available online on our website under the link called Legion Baseball Forms.

5. Proper Certificates of Insurance must be purchased and filled out on-line (Accident and Liability Required), AND THESE CERTIFICATES SHALL BE EFFECTIVE BY THE 1ST DAY OF TRYOUTS.

The official American Legion Baseball rules are allowed to be changed every two years. It was a rule change year in 2024. The official American Legion Baseball rules as adopted by the National Americanism Commission for 20224 apply to the Department of New Hampshire with the following additions: **Changes from the 2023 rules will be in bold text.**

### **GENERAL TEAM RULES**

1. **FIRST AID KIT:** Each team **MUST** have a Red Cross-approved first aid kit in the dugout at all tryouts, practices, and games. The penalty shall be a \$100.00 fine for each violation if a team is in need of a first aid kit and they do not have one and this event is reported to the Chairman, Umpire in Chief or one of the committee members.

2. No one will be allowed in the dugout unless in uniform and this includes the scorekeeper. REMINDER - Per ALB Rule, all teams must have a legion baseball patch on their jerseys on either left shoulder or left breast for all regular season games and tournament games. All coaches must also have a patch on any game pullover.

3. The Department Baseball Committee must approve a team sponsorship prior to a team participating in the New Hampshire American Legion Baseball program.

a. The Department of New Hampshire American Legion Baseball Program will be structured by "Plan B" recruiting only and all teams must be sponsored by an active legion post located in NH.

**b.** 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.

**4. Dual Rostered Players:** The NH rule as follows was amended during our spring meeting on 3/3/24 and adopted. Teams may dual roster up to three (3) players within their program within the junior and prep programs only. Paperwork for the players must be included with both the junior and prep team and a note must say “Dual Roster” on the top of the rom #2

**4a. Player Participation Within a Program Clarification** This is the rule as stated in the ALB Rules 6-E-1:

1. 1 . For those American Legion Baseball programs that have affiliated senior and junior teams, junior eligible players may participate on both teams . However, senior eligible players may not participate on a junior team . Those eligible junior players may appear in an affiliated senior team game provided the total number of players in such senior game does not exceed 18 players.

So, programs who have a senior team and also have a prep team, junior team or both can bring up players from those prep or junior teams to play seniors as long as there is not more than 18 players listed on line-up card for that given game. No more than 18 listed players can play in a senior game on any given night.

**\*\*\*Any player officially listed on the senior Form 1 roster cannot play down to junior or prep. They are senior team only!**

If it exists, we do not check the dual roster box for any player in the future.

**5. Player Eligibility:** Please refer to the 2024 Eligibility chart in the ALB Rule book or on our website under coaches links.

**6. Player Recruiting Total:** (ALB Rule 3 and 4) Combined total enrollment of high schools cannot exceed 7,500 for 10th, 11th and 12th grades and Post-Grad if applicable.

**6a. Players Per Team:** In cases of a season ending injury, a player may be replaced on the National Form #1 prior to the end of regular season play with the department baseball chairman approval and with proper supporting medical doctor's note and documents.

**6b. Tryouts - Formal Roster and Cuts:** This rule was voted upon by our baseball committee and vote was unanimous. It was added to our rules on 9/21/23. The rule is as follows: Tryouts, Formal Rosters and Cuts- Once a team has tryouts and they have rostered the amount of players they plan to roster up to 18, then a list shall be created of those players who were cut\* with their names, addresses, phone number, email address and birth

date. This list shall be forwarded to the baseball Chairman. The Chairman shall forward this list to the next closest team so that team will be made aware of these players. This process shall continue until each player finds a team or decides that they do not want to participate in Legion baseball.

**\*Note:** Every player that is cut from a legion team roster, that is, the roster that is entered onto the official Form 1 roster on-line shall be on that cut list. Players cannot be held on a team to be eligible for Tournament Rosters and not be allowed to try out for another legion baseball team for official legion baseball district play.

### **UMPIRES**

7. There shall be two (2) umpires hired for all District games. If only (1) umpire is available, the Game may be played. (NOTE: Refer to 9.03 of the Official Baseball Rules):

a. Umpires hired for District games shall be members of the NH American Legion Baseball Umpires Association.

b. For Senior games, the minimum fee of **\$90.00** shall be paid to each umpire for each game assigned. For Junior games, the minimum fee of **\$80.00** shall be paid to each umpire for each game assigned. For Prep games, the minimum fee of **\$70.00** shall be paid to each umpire for each game assigned.

c. Non-members of the NHALBUA can be hired for non-district games. The parties involved determine fees for these umpires.

d. If an Umpire gets to a game and the game is cancelled by a rain-out before the first pitch, the Umpire will be paid a fee of \$25.00. Umpires are to be paid in full by the forfeiting team for games forfeited less than two hours prior to schedule start time. If a team forfeits a game more than two hours before that game starts, the forfeiting team will pay umpires \$50.00 each. If the game is forfeited and the umpires have already arrived at game site, they will be paid the full umpire amount by the forfeiting team. Umpires will also receive a \$25 fee to re-start a suspended game and \$10 per inning thereafter not to exceed fee of minimum amount for each program.

#### **Fee Schedule - Umpires 2024 Season: Two umpires assigned for:**

**Senior Program:** 7 inning game \$90.00/umpire, DH 2-7 inning games (same two team or one team playing two different Teams \$170.00/umpire.

**Junior Program:** 7 inning game \$80.00/umpire, DH 2-7 inning games (same two team or one team playing two different Teams \$150.00/umpire.

**Prep Program:** 7 inning game \$70.00/umpire, DH 1-7 inning game and 1-5 inning game \$125.00/umpire. DH 2- 7 inning games between two different teams \$130.00 umpire.

**8. Umpire Authority:** Umpires have the authority to eject players, coaches, or managers from a game for malicious, flagrant, or un-sportsmanlike conduct. Umpire has to call one of the three supervisors of umpires the day or night, it occurs. Supervisors of Umpires will notify the team, if the participant ejected will or will not coach or play the next District Game. If the team is not notified, the player, coach, or manager may participate in the next District Game.

## **GAME RULES NH PROGRAMS**

### **9. NH ALB POLICY FOR UMPIRES, GAMECHANGER, LINE-UP CARDS AND OFFICIAL BOOK**

**a. UMPIRES:** Will have the responsibility of accepting line-up cards from each team at the beginning of each game in both the regular season and during our state championships. They will not be responsible for line-up changes during the regular season games but, will be responsible for all changes during our state tournaments. Umpires will be responsible to receive all line-up changes for each team and relay all changes during a state tourney game to the official book (Gamechanger) which will be a member of our NH State Baseball Committee and also each opposing team.

**b. LINE-UP CARDS:** Line up cards will be exchanged with umpires at the beginning of each game in both the regular season and during our state championships. Line-up changes during regular season games will be exchanged between each team manager.

**c. GAMECHANGER:** Gamechanger will be the official scoring tool used for all NH American Legion Baseball Games. There is no other option. Each team shall send the Baseball Chairman their Gamechanger name by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Teams shall exchange Gamechanger line-ups at least 15:00 before the start of each game.

If a team for some reason does not use Gamechanger during a game, that team shall be reported to the Chairman by the team who does have the Gamechanger. The opposing team using Gamechanger shall hold official scoring for all aspects of that game whether they are the home team or not. If

by chance both teams do not have Gamechanger available for that game, then the home team's book shall hold official scoring for all aspects of that game and also report that both teams did not have Gamechanger available.

**d. OFFICIAL GAME SCORE:** For regular season games, the home team gamechanger will reflect the official score for all aspects of that game. During our state tournament games, the NH Baseball Committee will be in charge of the official scoring.

**10. Pitching Rules:** Adopted for the 2022 (Minor changes made in wording) Regular Season and All Tournament Play. Please see link on the front-page of our website.

**11. The Designated Hitter Rule:** The DH Rule is allowed in NH American Legion Baseball. Refer to Rule 6.10 of the Official Baseball Rules. If you use the designated hitter, it must be for the pitcher only for the junior and senior program. **There is no DH allowed for the prep program.**

**12. 10-Run Rule:** All regular season games, playoff games and department tournament games for the Prep, Junior and Senior Program will utilize a 10-Run Rule after five (5) innings, unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 4-1/2 innings. There is no 10-Run Rule in a prep game which is five (5) innings.

**13. Re-Entry Rule Juniors & Seniors:** The NH Legion Baseball Program will utilize the re-entry rule for the **regular season only**. The rule as stated: Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-enter once, including a player who was the designated hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may NOT re-enter.

**14. Courtesy Runners Rule:** - Courtesy Runners NOT ALLOWED for our NH programs.

**15. RULE 4:05 COMMENT: Coaches Box Understanding:** It has been common practice for many years for some coaches to put one foot outside the coach's box or stand astride or otherwise be slightly outside the coaching box lines. Until a batted ball passes a coach, a coach is not permitted to position himself closer to home plate than the coach's box nor closer to fair territory than the coach's box. Otherwise, a coach shall not be considered out of the box unless the opposing manager complains, in which case the umpire shall strictly enforce the rule and require all coaches (on both teams) to remain in the coach's box at all times.

**16. Lightning Safety:** There is a nation rule for lightning safety (Rule 1-O). Please see ALB NH rules in this regard.

### **Suspended Game Rules**

A regular season game that has officially started and is halted due to weather or darkness will be considered suspended before it becomes a legal game.

A legal game is a game that game has to go 4.5 innings if the home team is ahead or 5 complete innings if away team is ahead, the home team would get last at bat to try and win.

If a game does become legal and in subsequent innings the game is halted due to weather or darkness, the following criteria will be used:

1. If the game is halted and the inning is complete and another inning has not started, the game considered over. If the score stands tied, that game would continue as a suspended game.
2. If a new inning has started and the away team scores no runs and has recorded three outs and then game is halted, if home team is ahead, the game stands as complete. If the game is tied and the away team scores a run or runs to go ahead in that 1/2 inning, then the game is halted, that game is suspended at that point and has to be completed.

**The rules not specified in State Rules will be covered by National Rules or the Official Baseball Rule Book as published by the Sporting News.**

### **17. REGULAR SEASON GAME RULES PREP PROGRAM**

1. **Prep Pitching Rule:** The prep program will follow the Pitch Smart Pitching Rule listed in the ALB Rule Book.
2. **Bat Rule:** The prep program will follow the ALB bat rule that is listed in the ALB Rule Book.
3. **Batting Line-up:** During the regular season a prep team will be allowed to: Bat a line-up of nine players or all their

players who are in attendance for that particular game. Once a type of batting order is chosen at the beginning of a game, that choice cannot change. In all the above cases, a batting order cannot change.

**4. Game Length:** When playing a double header involving the same two teams, the first game will be 7 innings and the second game will be 5 innings. If a team plays two different teams in the same day, both those games will be 7 innings.

**5. Positioning of Players:** The prep program will allow free defensive substitutions during a game. Once a pitcher is removed during a game, he can go to another position but cannot return to pitch. We would also advise that a pitcher would not play the position of catcher the day he also pitches.

**Rule Revisions:** Once our prep tournament starts, it will follow all NH, ALB and MLB rules as written. No exceptions to those rules will be allowed.

### **EQUIPMENT RULES**

**18. Bat Rule:** The senior, junior and prep program will follow the ALB bat rule that is listed in the ALB Rule Book. This rule was changed by a unanimous baseball committee vote on September 11, 2023.

**19. Baseball Rules:** Approved baseballs must have a legion certification stamp on it. [Link to approved legion brand baseballs.](#)

**20. Coaching Helmet Rule:** Coaches must wear a helmet to be on the field. A hard helmet is required; "Skullies" are allowed to be worn by an adult base coach. Baseball hat inserts are NOT permitted. If a coach comes out to his coaching position without a helmet (as if to begin an inning), the umpire should direct the coach to put on a helmet immediately. If the coach does not immediately move to comply with the umpire's direction, the individual is to be ejected from the game. If a player is utilized as a base coach, that player must wear a helmet that contains ear flaps. A player cannot wear a "skullie" - hard helmet with no ear flaps" while coaching any base.

**21. Field Conditions:** Although there is no rule for conditions of playing fields, the respect of our legion baseball program as well as all the teams playing in our program should come into play for each and every game. All NH teams should make a great effort for maintaining a respectable field for playing our games. Fields should be mowed, raked and lined for every one on our legion games. Please make an attempt this year to take this into consideration. Thanks, The Baseball Committee.

**22. Home Team Commitments - Umpires and Baseballs:** Whichever team hosts two games of a three game regular season series, that team will assume the responsibility of paying for umpires for both games and also providing baseballs for both games. If these two teams want to make adjustments to this rule, the discussion to do so MUST TAKE PLACE when the games are scheduled. If teams decide to make a different arrangement for umpire payments (and baseballs) for these two games, the away team MUST BRING A FORM OF PAYMENT TO THAT GAME. If teams are just playing a home and away two game regular season schedule but they are playing both games at one location, each team



must have one home game and be responsible for providing baseballs for that game and also pay for the umpires for that game.

### **PROTESTS**

1. Protests of official baseball rule interpretations during actual game conditions must be filed with the chief umpire before the next legal pitched ball is thrown from the pitching mound or an out made.
2. A written protest (using the Protest Form) must be sent within 24 hours to the **Protest Committee Chairman**, **District Director**, and **Department Baseball Chairman**.
3. The Protest Committee Chairman will send the written decision to the Team manager with copies to the District Director and Department Baseball Chairman.
4. Player eligibility protests will be filed in writing, be specific and include positive written proof of the circumstances and presented to the DISTRICT DIRECTOR with a copy to the DEPARTMENT BASEBALL CHAIRMAN. The DISTRICT DIRECTOR will resolve the protest allowing an appeal of his decision to the DEPARTMENT BASEBALL CHAIRMAN.
5. Any player found to be ineligible shall be disqualified. Any and all games said player participated in shall be forfeited.
6. Any appeal or rule interpretations to National Headquarters, the National Director, or the National Appeals Board must be routed through the Department Baseball Chairman. Any individual or team, either directly or indirectly, that contacts such higher authority without the permission of the DEPARTMENT BASEBALL CHAIRMAN SHALL BE SUSPENDED from participation in the New Hampshire American Legion Baseball Program for a period of time as determined by the DEPARTMENT BASEBALL COMMITTEE.

### **FORFEITS AND MAKE-UP GAMES**

1. District Games will take precedent over non-district games in rescheduling of un-played games. A player that is on the Form#1 and not on the lineup up card is eligible to play that game or any makeup game.
2. Teams must submit a copy of their season baseball schedule (**District and Non-District**) to the District Director **prior to their first scheduled game**.
3. **Game Make-up Directions:** District games not played as scheduled due to inclement weather or other reasons, must be rescheduled within 24 hours after the game is called. The Chairman must be notified immediately if a game is

cancelled or suspended. This game must be made up on the first open common weekday date of both teams. In the final two weeks of the season, this game must be scheduled on the first open date period, weekend or weekday. If the two teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date within the 24 hours, the Chairman will set the rescheduled date and his decision is final. If the game is not played on the rescheduled date, barring more inclement weather or other reasons, the Chairman will continue to reschedule this game until it is played. Expenses incurred to play the rescheduled game will be borne by the home team.

**4. Forfeit Rules:** If a team forfeits more than two games in the same season, that team's Baseball Franchise (team in question) status will be brought forward to the Baseball Committee. A penalty of a one year suspension could be voted upon. If a year suspension is voted, this team will be put on probation for the following year. If this team requests reinstatement after that suspended season, they will have to fill out a new team form and address the committee in person with their plans to successfully re-instate that team.

**5. Unfinished District Schedule:** In the judgment of the State Chairman, Vice Chairman and Umpire in Chief, if a team does not finish its scheduled District games, all games played by that team will be discounted in the final standings of the District in which the team played. Consideration will be taken into account on how the eliminated games would affect seedings for State Tournament.

#### **NH LEGION EVENTS 2024 - SENIOR, JUNIOR AND PREP STATE TOURNAMENTS and LEGION BASEBALL SHOWCASE**

1. All the New Hampshire State Tournaments and Showcase locations, dates, formats and information shall be posted by the Chairman on our website under each program once that decision has been made by our committee.

2. Umpires for the State Tournament will be selected by the Umpire in Chief and his assistant with approval by the Department Chairman and will be members of the NHALBUA.

3. All Prep, Junior and Senior tournament games will be scheduled seven (7) innings. Tournament games interrupted, for whatever reason, will be played to conclusion and retain their place in the tournament schedule.

4. All Prep, Junior and Senior State Tournament games will utilize a 10 Run Rule after 5 innings, unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 4 1/2 innings.

5. No team will be required to play more than two (2) games in any one-calendar day (State and National Tournament only). Playing day starts at 8:00 A.M..(See National Rule 9J(l),(2),(3)).

6. The pitching rule adopted by the American Legion Baseball Program for 2022/2023 shall be in effect for both the prep, junior and senior tournaments.

7. For seeding purposes only, teams whose records are the same in the final district standing and are tied for first, second or third place will be determined by:

a. Won and lost record against the team or teams tied with.

b. Won and lost record against the other three teams qualifying for the State Tournament. In a season where there is less than 9 teams in a particular district, winning percentage will be used as a determining factor with this tie-breaker.

c. Least number of runs allowed against team or teams tied within head to head competition.

d. If still tied, a flip will determine seeding.

e. The first and second place seeded teams will have the option of choosing to play as the home or visiting team in their first game of the State Tournament. From Game 5 through Game 15, a coin flip will be used to determine the home team.

8. If two or more teams finish in a tie for fourth place, the above tiebreak system will be used until the fourth tiebreak.

There will not be a coin flip; there will be play-off game to decide the fourth seed outcome. If 3 teams are tied, after tiebreak's a-c above, a coin flip will decide a bye in game one, and the team receiving the bye will play the winner of the playoff game to decide fourth place.

9. During a State Tournament, any player, coach, or manager suspended from a game by an umpire for un-sportsmanlike conduct must report to the Protest Committee to be reinstated, the Committee will review the request and will make a recommendation to the Department Baseball Chairman. The Department Baseball Chairman's decision is final.

10. Any PLAYER, COACH, or MANAGER ejected by an umpire must leave the ballpark.

11. Any player, coach, or manager who shows any disrespect to the Flag of our country by unnecessary moving, talking, or not removing of hat during the code of sportsmanship and our National Anthem will be warned and a second offense means suspension for the rest of the tournament. This is a National Rule that applies to all National Tournaments.

## **DISTRICTS**

1a. Prep, Junior and Senior District games will be scheduled seven (7) inning games. (See prep program exceptions above under game rules).

1b. **Doubleheaders:** Juniors and Seniors: Teams are allowed to schedule doubleheaders consisting of two (7) seven-inning games. Teams are allowed to schedule the same team if you are playing a home and away series with that team or two different teams on the same day. See the prep program rule for double headers under game rules.

2. **Season Calendar:** The start and finish of each program regular season shall be posted as soon it becomes available on the NH Legion Baseball website by the Chairman.

**3. District Schedules:** All teams district schedules shall be completed and emailed to the Chairman for submission to the annual baseball committee meeting held on a Sunday in early March. Changes to this schedule can be made up until the first allowable day to start our regular season. After that day the only changes that will be allowed will be due to weather or with approval of the Chairman.

**4. Baseballs:** The home team must furnish an approved league baseball for all District games. Approved baseballs must have a legion certification stamp on it. [Link to approved legion brand baseballs.](#)

**5.** The visiting teams will be accorded the courtesy of 1/2 hour delay in the start of a game because of travel and unforeseen delays (i.e., mechanical breakdown, accidents, etc.).

**6.** The home team must afford the visiting team 30 minutes batting practice starting 1 hour before the scheduled game time. Please be courteous to a visiting team and allow the same batting practice venue (field or cage) that you utilize as a the home team if that visiting team arrives on time.

**7.** If either team fails to field nine (9) players at the start of the game or during the game, the game will be forfeited and the District Director notified immediately.

**8.** The Department Baseball Committee will arrange the playoff schedule in the event there are ties for fourth place in the final standing. Finances for tie breaking games will be shared by the teams involved.