



**THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL
RULES AND REGULATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2026**

The official American Legion Baseball rules as adopted by the National Americanism Commission for 2026 to 2028 apply to the Department of New Hampshire with the following additions: **Changes from the 2023 rules (rules are good for two years) will be in bold text.**

REQUIRED PLAYER AND TEAM PAPERWORK

For all players Senior, Junior or Prep: *

Copy of your complete schedule (district and non-district games) A copy of each player's Form 2*

For new players:

An original birth certificate or a player's passport

A copy of the Form 77, Team Declaration Form, for every "Option C" player (new or returning)

For a transfer player (waived):

A copy of the Form 76, Player Transfer Form, and Form 77, Team Declaration Form

A copy of the Form 6, Dual Participation Form, **for every player who is also playing for a non- legion team**

* If a player is a dual rostered player between a prep and junior team, a Form 2 must be submitted to both the junior and prep team. The original birth certificate shall go to the junior team.

A copy of your signed agreement (last page) of your NH Team Code of Conduct

Your paperwork will be checked by your assigned director before being sent to the Chairman for final approval.

Senior A Director
Dan Griswold
c/o Lebanon Post #22
189 Mechanic St., Lebanon, NH 03766
603-252-1373

Senior B Director
John Bly
30 Pelham Lane
Concord, NH 03301
603-558-1320

Junior/Prep Director
Rick Harvey
3-B Hedgerow Dr.
Hudson, NH03051
603-767-0477

Remember: Keep the originals of all player paperwork and give a full set of copies to your director.

GENERAL TEAM RULES

1. **FIRST AID KIT:** Each team **MUST** have a Red Cross-approved first aid kit in its dugout at all tryouts, practices, and games. A \$100.00 fine will be levied for each time a kit is needed, is not available, and is reported to the Chairman, Umpire-in-Chief, or a Baseball Committee Member.

2. No one will be allowed in a dugout unless in uniform including the scorekeeper. REMINDER: per ALB rule, all players must have a legion baseball patch on their jerseys (on either their left shoulder or left breast) for all regular season and tournament games. Likewise, all coaches must have a patch on any game pullover.

3. The Department of NH Baseball Committee must approve all team sponsorships.
 - 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 business involves the sale or use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products shall be permitted to display related advertising on team uniforms.

- Dual Rostered Players between Prep and Juniors:** This NH rule was adopted during our spring meeting on 3/3/24: Teams may dual roster up to three (3) players. Paperwork for each player shall be included with both the junior and prep teams and all Form 2's shall note "Dual Roster" at the top.

4. **Player Eligibility:** Please refer to the 2026 Eligibility chart in the ALB Rule Book or on our website under coach's links.

5. **Player Recruiting Total:** (ALB Rules 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 season-ending injury, a player may be replaced on National Form #1 prior to the end of regular season play with department baseball chairman approval and with proper supporting medical doctor's note and documents. For the 2026 season, all documents MUST be in the Chairman's hands by 6/18/26

 - 6b. **Tryouts, Formal Rosters and Cuts:** This rule was adopted upon the unanimous vote by our Baseball Committee on 9/21/23: After a team has conducted tryouts and has rostered up to 18 players, it shall create a list of those players who were cut* along with their names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and birth dates. This list shall be forwarded to the Baseball Chairman who will then forward it to the next closest team and so on until each player either finds a team or decides that he no longer wants to participate in legion baseball.

*Note: Every player that is cut from a legion team roster (the official online Form 1 roster) shall be on that cut list and must be allowed to try out for other legion baseball teams participating in official legion district games.

UMPIRE FEES FOR THE 2026 SEASON

There shall be three (3) umpires hired for all District games for the senior program and two (2) umpires hired for all District games for the junior and prep programs. If only (1) umpire is available for a junior and prep game, it may still be played. (NOTE: Refer to 9.03 of the Official Baseball Rules).

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

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

If an Umpire gets to a game that is rained-out (or otherwise cancelled) before the first pitch, the Umpire will be paid a fee of \$35.00 Umpires are to be paid-in-full by the forfeiting team for games forfeited less than two hours prior to the scheduled start time and \$50.00 each for games forfeited more than two hours before the start time. Umpires will also receive a \$25 fee to re-start a suspended game and \$10 per inning thereafter (not to exceed the normal fee for a regular game).

At the 11/3/24 meeting, a rule change regarding umpire fees for the senior program only was unanimously passed by the Baseball Committee upon the recommendation of our UIC and Asst. UIC. Most of our umpires are used to working two-man crews. For our senior tournament, we use a three-man crew which has caused issues. Another factor is our aging umpire group. By offering a three-man crew for our senior program, they believe we will get more umpires to work for us. This would benefit not only our regular season games but also help prepare our umpires for the senior tournament.

At our 11/1/25 meeting, the umpire fees were amended and frozen for three years.

Three umpires assigned for our Senior Program:

7 inning game	90.00/umpire
DH 2- 7 inning games (same two teams)	170.00/umpire
DH 2- 7 inning games (one team playing two different teams)	170.00/umpire

Two umpires assigned for our junior and prep programs:

Junior Program:

7 inning game	80.00/umpire
DH 2- 7 inning games (same two teams)	150.00/umpire
DH 2- 7 inning games (one team playing two different teams)	150.00/umpire

Prep Program:

7 inning game	70.00/umpire
DH 2- 7 inning games (same two teams)	125.00/umpire
DH 2- 7 inning games (one team playing two different teams)	130.00/umpire

Umpire Authority: Umpires have the authority to eject players, coaches, and managers from a game for malicious, flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct. After an ejection takes place, the Umpire shall call one of the three Supervisors of Umpires who will then notify the team if the person ejected will be allowed to participate in the next district game. If the team is not notified, then the player, coach, or manager may participate in the next game.

GAME RULES NH PROGRAMS

- 1. UMPIRES:** Will have the responsibility of accepting lineup cards from each team at the beginning of each game in both the regular season and during our state tournaments. They will not be responsible for lineup changes during regular season games but will be responsible for all changes during our state tournaments. Umpires will be also responsible for relaying all changes during a state tourney game to the official scorer (who will be a member of our NH State Baseball Committee) and each opposing team.
- 2. LINEUP CARDS:** Lineup cards will be exchanged with umpires and team managers at the beginning of each game during both the regular season and state tournaments.
- 3. 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 its Gamechanger name by May 15th. Teams shall exchange Gamechanger lineups at least 15 minutes before the start of each game. If a team does not use Gamechanger, it shall be reported to the Chairman by the opposing team which also will serve as the official scorer. If both teams do not have Gamechanger available, then the home team's book shall be the official scoring for that game. He shall also report that both teams did not have Gamechanger available.
- 4. OFFICIAL GAME SCORE:** For regular season games, the home team Gamechanger will reflect the official score for all aspects of each game. During our state tournament games, the NH Baseball Committee will be responsible for the official scoring.
- 5. Pitching Rules:** Those adopted since the 2022 season (with minor changes made in wording) shall be used for all regular season and tournament games. Refer to the link on the front page of our website.
- 6. The Designated Hitter Rule** is allowed for the pitcher only in NH American Legion Baseball. (Refer to Rule 6.10 of the Official Baseball Rules). **There is no DH allowed in the prep program.**
- 7. Ten (10) Run Rule:** All games for the Prep, Junior and Senior Programs will utilize the 10-Run Rule after five (5) innings unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 4-1/2 innings. The rule will not apply in five (5) innings prep games.
- 8. The Re-Entry Rule for all Programs** will be utilized during the **regular season only**. It states that any starting player may be withdrawn and re-enter once, including a designated hitter, provided that he occupies the same position in the batting order. A substitute who is withdrawn may NOT re-enter.

9. Courtesy Runners Rule: Courtesy Runners will be allowed for our NH programs during the regular season and state tournaments. That runner will be the batter who made the last out in the previous inning.

10. Prep Rules: Batting Lineup: A prep team's lineup will consist of either 9 players 10 players with an EH. There is no DH allowed in Prep Program. Once a game starts with either 9 or 10 players in the line-up, it cannot change for the entire game. **This rule is for both the regular and season and Tournament play.**

Positioning of Players – Regular Season Only: Just like the junior and senior program, prep teams can use the re-entry rule for the 9 or 10 player line up. Batting order must remain the same throughout the game.

RULE 4:05 Comment---Coach's Box Understanding: It has been common practice for many years for some coaches to put one foot outside the coach's box, stand nearby or otherwise be slightly outside the lines of the coach's box. And until a batted ball passes a coach, he is not permitted to position himself closer to home plate or closer to fair territory than the coach's box.

A coach shall not be considered out of the box unless the opposing manager complains. Then the umpire shall strictly enforce the rule and require all coaches on both teams to remain within the lines of the coach's box.

11. Lightening Safety: There is a national rule for lightning safety (Rule 1-O). Please refer to ALB NH rules as well.

12. Suspended Game Rules:

A regular season game that is halted due to weather or darkness before it becomes a legal game will be suspended. A legal game is one that has gone for 5 full innings (4.5 innings if the home team is ahead).

If a game becomes legal and later is halted due to weather or darkness, the following process will be used:

If the game is halted after an inning has been completed, the game will be considered as over if one team is ahead. If the score is tied, the game will be suspended.

If a game is halted after a partial-inning has been played, it will stand as complete if the home team is ahead. If the game is tied or the road team is ahead, it will be suspended at that point.

13. New ALB Extra Inning Rule (ghost runner): If a tournament game goes into extra innings at any level and is still tied going into the 10th inning, then a runner will be placed on second base to start the 10th inning and every half-inning thereafter. That runner will be the batter who made the last out in the previous half-inning.

In NH, this rule will also be used during the regular season.

EQUIPMENT RULES

Bat Rule: The senior, junior and prep programs will all 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.

Rules involving Baseballs: All baseballs must have a legion certification stamp on it. The link to approved baseballs is located on our website.

Coaching Helmet Rule: All coaches must wear a helmet while on the field. A hard helmet is required ("Skullies" are also allowed to be worn by adult base coaches). Baseball hat inserts are NOT permitted. If a coach comes out to his coaching position without a helmet, the umpire shall direct him to put on a helmet immediately. If he does not immediately comply, he shall be ejected from the game. If a player is utilized as a base coach, he must wear a helmet that contains ear flaps and may not use a "skullie".

Field Conditions: Although there is no rule for conditions of playing fields, respect for our legion baseball program as well as for all the teams playing should come into play for each and every game. All NH teams should make a great effort to maintain a respectable field---they should be mowed, raked and lined for every game. Please make a special effort this season! Thanks, The Baseball Committee

Home Team Commitments - Umpires and Baseballs: Whichever team hosts two games of a three- game regular season series shall be responsible for paying the umpires and providing the baseballs for both games. If two teams want to make adjustments to this rule, they may do so WHEN THE GAMES ARE SCHEDULED and away teams MUST BRING A FORM OF PAYMENT AND/OR BASEBALLS TO THAT GAME. If two teams are playing a home and away two-game regular season schedule but are playing both games at one location, each team shall be the home team for one game and pay the umpires and provide the baseballs for that game.

PROTESTS

Protests of official baseball rule interpretations during actual game conditions must be filed with the chief umpire before the next legally pitched ball is thrown from the pitching mound or an out made.

A written protest (using the Protest Form) shall be sent within 24 hours to the **Protest Committee Chairman**, **District Director**, and **Department Baseball Chairman**.

The Protest Committee Chairman will send the final written decision to the Team Manager with copies to the District Director and Department Baseball Chairman.

Player eligibility protests shall be filed in writing with the DISTRICT DIRECTOR (with a copy to the DEPARTMENT BASEBALL CHAIRMAN) and specify proof of the facts involved. The DISTRICT DIRECTOR will resolve the protest and allow an appeal of his decision to the DEPARTMENT BASEBALL CHAIRMAN. Any player found to be ineligible shall be disqualified. Any and all games said player participated in shall be forfeited.

Any appeal of 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

District Games will take precedent over non-district games when rescheduling unplayed games. Any player on a team's Form#1 is eligible to play in any game or makeup game. It is not necessary that his name be on a lineup card for that game.

Teams must submit a copy of their season baseball schedule **including all District and Non-District games** to the District Director **prior to their first scheduled game**.

Rules for Rescheduling Regular Season and Make-up Games

Games may be rescheduled prior to the start of a season. Please notify the Chairman when you do so. District games not played as scheduled due to inclement weather must be rescheduled within 24 hours after the game is called. The Chairman must be notified immediately if a game is cancelled or suspended, and it 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 mutual open date regardless of weekend or weekday. If the two teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date within the 24 hours, the Chairman may set the rescheduled date, and his decision is final. If the game is not played on the rescheduled date, barring more inclement weather, the Chairman will continue to help reschedule this game until it is played. Expenses incurred to play the rescheduled game will be borne by the home team.

District games that are requested to be changed as scheduled must be cleared by our chairman before a change is made. The Chairman will recognize extenuating circumstances including Babe Ruth Tourney games being rained out that involve legion players. The Chairman and the impacted teams will work together to reschedule these games ASAP. Expenses incurred to play a rescheduled game will be borne by the home team.

Scheduling changes will not be made simply because a team will be short of players (unless in cases cited above involving Babe Ruth Tournament games). This includes shortages caused by vacations, injuries, AAU players participating elsewhere, etc.). Our legion teams create their schedules with plenty of advanced notice. Such excuses do not justify moving our games. Parents and players know when all of our games are scheduled as early as April. Excuses that affect an individual player will not be recognized. A forfeit will be assigned by the Chairman in such cases of player shortages.

Forfeit Rules: If a team forfeits more than two games in the same season, its status as a viable franchise will be brought forward to the Baseball Committee for evaluation potentially involving a one- year suspension followed by a second year on probation. If a team then requests reinstatement, it will have to fill out a new team form and present it plans to successfully reorganize its program in person to the committee in person.

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

**NH LEGION EVENTS FOR 2026
SENIOR, JUNIOR AND PREP STATE TOURNAMENTS
NH LEGION BASEBALL**

All New Hampshire State Tournament locations, dates, formats and information shall be posted by the Chairman on our website.

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

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

All Prep, Junior and Senior State Tournament games will utilize the Ten (10) Run Rule after 5 innings.

No team will be required to play more than two (2) games in one-calendar day (State and National Tournaments only). The playing day starts at 8:00 am. (See National Rule 9J(l),(2),(3)).

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

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

1. Won and lost record against the team(s) involved in the tie
2. Won and lost record against the other three teams qualifying for the State Tournament. Where there are less than 9 teams in a district, winning percentage will be used as a determining factor with this tiebreaker.
3. Least number of runs allowed against team(s) tied within head-to-head competition.
4. If still tied, a coin flip will determine seeding.

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

If two teams finish in a tie for fourth place, the above tiebreaking system will be used until the fourth tiebreaker which will be playoff game rather than a coin flip. If three teams are tied after tiebreakers a through c above, then a coin flip will determine a bye in playoff game one, and

the team receiving the bye will play the winner of that playoff game to determine the fourth-place finisher. The Baseball Committee will determine the schedule for such playoff games, and the finances involved will be shared by the participating teams.

During a State Tournament, any player, coach, or manager suspended from a game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct must report to the Protest Committee to be reinstated. It will review the request and will make a recommendation to the Department Baseball Chairman whose decision will be final. Anyone ejected must leave the ballpark.

Uniformed personnel who show disrespect by moving, talking, or not removing their hat during the code of sportsmanship or our National Anthem will be given a warning. They will be suspended for the rest of the tournament for a second offense. This is a National Rule that applies to all tournaments.

DISTRICT REGULAR SEASON

1a. Prep, Junior and Senior district games will be scheduled to last seven (7) innings. (Please see prep program exceptions above).

1b. Doubleheaders: Prep, Junior and Senior teams are allowed to schedule doubleheaders consisting of two (7) seven-inning games. They are allowed to schedule the same team for both games or two different teams for one game each.

Season Calendar: The start and finish of each program's regular season shall be posted on the NH Legion Baseball website by the Chairman.

District Schedules: Every team shall email its complete district schedule to the Chairman in advance of the annual spring scheduling meeting. Changes can be made at any time before the start of the regular season. After that, the only changes that will be allowed will be due to weather or with the approval of the Chairman.

Game Tardiness: Visiting teams will be accorded the courtesy of 1/2 hour delay in the start of a game because of travel or other unforeseen delays (i.e., mechanical breakdowns, accidents, etc.).

Batting Practice: Home teams shall allow visiting teams thirty (30) minutes of batting practice starting one (1) hour before the scheduled game time. Please be courteous and allow the same batting practice venue (field or cage) that you utilize as the home team.

If any team fails to field nine (9) players at the start of a game, then that game will be forfeited, and the District Director shall be notified immediately.

If there are issues during a game that require a rules check, please visit our website and look for links under ALB Rules and Regulations and NH Rules and Regulations.

<http://www.newhampshireamericanlegionbaseball.com>

2026-2027 American Legion Baseball Rules Update

These rules were officially adopted by the National DEC in February 2026

1.G. Courtesy Runners. Departments may use the courtesy runner rule for their respective American Legion Baseball program during regular and post season: **New Hampshire will adopt this rule for both the regular season and State Tournaments for all levels. We will add to this rule with the following rule: The courtesy runner will be the player who committed the 2nd out of the inning in progress or the last out of the previous inning.**

1.S. One-Way Communication. A coach may use a one-way electronic communication device to communicate with the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches. Coaches may not use electronic communication device(s) to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense.

When using the electronic communication device, the coach cannot be outside the dugout/bench area. A tablet computer used for scorekeeping purposes is only permissible.

(NH will allow)

6.D. Dual Participation. *“POINT OF EMPHASIS”* The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Dual participation shall no way interfere with a player’s responsibility to his American Legion Baseball team. Once state tournament play has completely concluded and should there be open dates prior to team travel (August 3) to national regional tournaments, a player(s) may be granted permission to dual participate from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman. Any player participating in another sanctioned baseball game/tournament during the American Legion post-season tournament dates shall be ineligible from further post-season tournament play.

CLARIFICATION – Players attending military assignment, MLB-sanctioned invitation only event, player combine/evaluation of extended drills and/or game-like scenarios events, or college of enrollment orientation workouts may be granted an exception on a case-by-case basis with proper documentation. Prior written approval from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman is required.

9.L. Minimum Active Players. Teams competing in American Legion Baseball senior national tournaments (including state tournaments) must have nine players available for participation at a national tournament at all times. Senior teams that have fewer player available from their approved roster strength are permitted to bring up players registered on their affiliated Junior American Legion Baseball team roster to the senior team to approved roster strength not to exceed a total of 18 players. **CLARIFICATION** – If the Senior team’s approved roster strength is 16 players, the team is allowed to only transfer enough Junior players to a roster strength of 16 players.

Any players transferred from junior team to senior team must be approved and certified by the department baseball chairman. The junior roster must be registered with the national office by June 30. Any senior team that does not have nine players will forfeit its right to participate, and the National Americanism Division – in consultation with the department baseball chairman – shall determine a suitable replacement team.

9.M. Between Inning Time Limit. Between innings, teams have 120 seconds (or 150 seconds for a relief pitcher) to be ready for the first pitch (pitcher holding the ball and touching the pitcher's plate and a batter standing in the batter's box ready to hit). The 120 second clock (or 150 second clock for a relief pitcher) shall start when all defensive players have started to leave their positions after the last out has been made and stops when the umpire calls "Play" for the first pitch of the first batter of the next half-inning. 3rd base umpire will use a stop-watch if a clock is not available. If there are unusual circumstances that prevent either team from getting on or off the field, other common-sense delays such as ceremonies or field maintenance not the fault of the teams, or an injury, the time clock is delayed until players have had an opportunity to begin to move to their positions. If the offensive team is not ready within the 120 second or 150 second clock, the umpire shall call a strike. If the defense is not ready, a ball shall be awarded to the first batter. **(NH will utilize this rule for State Tournament only.)**

MLB rule changes are not automatically adopted by ALB when introduced. A transition period will be observed to analyze, discuss, and vote to adopt or deny such changes. New rules will be considered on odd numbered years.

The following MLB rules have not been adopted for regular season or tournament play.

- 18-inch Bases rule 2.03 (if used-no penalty or forfeit)
- Limit the number of throws (pick-off attempts) to 1B
- Minimum Batters Faced Requirements rule 5.10(g)
- Ohtani Rule 5.11(b). ALB rule is DH for pitchers only
- Pitcher's Clock
 - a. Pitcher Delays rule 5.07(c) will be observed but not timed
 - b. When the bases are unoccupied, the pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter within 12 seconds after he receives the ball. Each time the pitcher delays the game by violating this rule, the umpire shall call a "Ball"
- Mound Visits
 - a. Limitation on Number of Mound Visits per Game rule 5.10(m)
 - b. ALB will continue to follow the 2 visits per inning that requires a change of pitcher rule 5.10(l)