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American Legion Baseball
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Memo to: Department Adjutants
Department Baseball Chairmen

From: Steve Cloud, Assistant Director

Date: Monday, October 17, 2011

Subject: 2011 Fall Meetings rule changes

I would like to introduce myself to those of you that I have not yet met. I am the new assistant program coordinator brought on board to help Jim in administering this great program. Feel free to contact me at (317) 630-1213 or email at scloud@legion.org. I look forward to working with all of you in the future and building relationships with each of you.

The following resolutions and rule changes were approved during the recently concluded 2011 Fall Meetings of the National Executive Committee and the National Americanism Commission. We ask that you review this information carefully and spread the word throughout your area. We are hopeful that these changes will continue to strengthen the “winning tradition” of American Legion Baseball.

We anticipate mailing a copy of the 2012 rules to each chairman and Department Adjutant by mid-November.

NEC Resolution #47 “American Legion Baseball Region Four Tournament Site – 2012” – the 2011 Region Four Host, Minden, Louisiana formally requested to not host the 2012 Mid-South Region Four tournament. The First District of Louisiana submitted a very nice bid and we want to thank and congratulate New Orleans for taking the lead. New Orleans, Louisiana (Kirsch Rooney Stadium) will be the host site of the 2012 Mid-South Region Four Tournament.

NEC Resolution #45 “Adherence to American Legion Baseball Rules” – As was discussed during the September Conference of Department Baseball Chairmen regarding playing and recruiting rules that are in conflict with Official Baseball Rules and The American Legion Baseball Rulebook, departments now may be subject to suspension and possible removal from the program if violations are not corrected within a timely manner. Please review this resolution and your rulebooks carefully.

It is not our intention to suspend or remove programs, but to eliminate the potential risk and liability we all face if we do not comply with established rules. As has been the long-standing policy of American Legion Baseball, departments may adopt more restrictive recruiting rules,

but may not approve rules that are more liberal than those established by The American Legion and Official Baseball Rules.

For example, Official Baseball Rule 4.17, a game shall be forfeited to the opposing team when a team is unable or refuses to place nine (9) players on the field. A department may NOT modify this rule in any manner.

Additionally, departments (or Leagues) may NOT allow additional player above the 18-man roster during the regular season.

A re-entry rule and a courtesy runner rule were rejected by a large majority vote during the Conference of Department Baseball Chairmen. The members of The American Legion Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee were unanimous in their vote to also prohibit both a re-entry rule as well as a courtesy runner rule. Therefore for a department to adopt either rule, this would be considered to be in **conflict** with the existing rules of American Legion Baseball.

Resolution #46 “American Legion Baseball Eligibility” – Although passed, the resolution will not go into effect until the beginning of the 2015 season. With the start of the 2015 season, American Legion Baseball will become a high school age program. Players who are in college will no longer be permitted to play. This allows for uniformity among all of our American Legion youth programs and best serves the overall purpose and mission of all The American Legion youth programs, to include American Legion Baseball.

Rulebook Changes: The following changes were approved. The actual wording might be different in the final rules to be released later; however, the intent will remain.

Rule 1 – A. Bat Rule: All non-wood bats must be BBCOR certified. If any bat fails to meet this requirement, said bat shall be removed from the game, the batter shall be declared out and the head coach or team manager shall be ejected from the game. **This rule changes follows the 2012 NFHS rule, which mandates that the head coach or manager is responsible for all equipment in the dugout.**

Rule 1 – K. Insurance: Every American Legion Baseball team (both junior and senior) **must** purchase both group liability and accident insurance from The American Legion’s agent of record (S.A. Van Dyk, Inc.). Coverage must be purchased NO LATER THAN MAY 15. Newly formed teams that miss the established deadline shall have until JUNE 1 to submit proof of insurance without penalty. Should a previously registered team miss the established deadline, then they shall have “grace” period until JUNE 1 to purchase insurance, but the team will be assessed a late fee of \$200 payable to the department. Missing the June 1 deadline will result in the disqualification from any further competition.

Rule 1 – P. 7 or 9 inning rules for regular season games and Ten (10) - Run Rule: Departments may adopt for the regular season the option of playing nine or seven inning games. The 10-rule rule shall apply after seven innings for nine inning games and five innings for seven inning games. All District, Department, Regional and National tournaments games will be nine innings.

Rule 4 – D. Transfer Rule: Senior players released from a team must obtain permission on National Transfer Form #76 from that team's manager to play for the team that is closest to his parent's domicile. Beginning with the 2012 season, transfers are **valid for the current season** only. All Senior transfers executed prior to the 2012 season shall remain final and binding through the remainder of the player's eligibility (previously executed transfers shall be honored, therefore "grandfathering" those players). **Junior players will be eligible to transfer in the 2012 for one year.** It should be noted that any junior transfers executed prior to 2012 are not valid (**illegal**) according to previous rule; therefore any transfer executed in 2011 season for a junior player is null and void.

College players: Returning age eligible college players are permitted to return to the team they played for in 2011. These players must have appeared on the 2011 roster. Returning college players are not eligible for transfer. **(A player who graduated in 2011 must return and play for their previous team; 2011 graduated players are not eligible to play for any other American Legion team).**

Rule 6 – A. Player and Team Registration: American Legion Baseball teams must submit their roster and be approved by their department baseball committee and National Form #1 filed via the national baseball website: www.legion.org/baseball, NO LATER THAN JUNE 30. Departments have authorization to make roster deadline earlier, but may not extend the date. Violation of this rule will result in the disqualification from any further competition.

Attached are the reports of the National Americanism Commission Chairman Joseph Caouette, the Baseball and Recreation Subcommittee Chairman Larry Price, and the approved resolutions. Please pass along this information to your districts and coaches.

Lastly, as we all know there is no "off season" or down time from baseball. I encourage you to be proactive and begin reviewing and updating your department rulebooks so they are in compliance. **(Both Chairman Caouette and Chairman Price are asking for all departments to review your rules carefully. Several department rulebooks reference "Sporting News Rules" which have not been published for five years.)** A reminder also, department rulebooks are to be filed with the National Headquarters office **before April 15, 2012.**

A final note if you have not already done so, please submit your recommendations of tournament staff and umpires through your departments for our consideration and review.