

American Legion Baseball Department of Virginia

- Department of Virginia Baseball Committee Members**

Chairman	James Grenier
Senior Division Tournament Director	Doug Heptinstall
Member	Kenneth Powell (absent)
Member	Tommy Whitlow
Member	Elbert Rose
Member	Jim Glassman (excused absent)
Member	Kirk Jefferies
Member	Bill White
Junior Division Tournament Director	Justin Carlisle

- Division/League Chairman:**

Division/League A	Charlie Triplet (absent)
Division/League B	Charlie Gates (replacement present)
Division/League C	Justin Carlisle Elbert Rose (sub)
Division/League D	James Grenier
Division/League E	Jim Glassman (excused absent)
Division/League F	Doug Heptinstall

- Number of Teams 2017 Approved and Final Registered:**

Division/League	Senior Division		Junior Division	
	2017 Approved Registration	2017 Approved Roster	2017 Approved Registration	2017 Approved Roster
Division/League A	6	6	9	9
Division/League B	8	8	0	0
Division/League C	4	3	5	3
Division/League D	8	8	5	5
Division/League E	6	6	0	0
Division/League F	8	8	7	7
Total:	40	39	26	24

Rule Changes 2018:

- **National tournament play will feature seven-inning games.** Departments will have the option to play nine-inning games during the regular season, however, beginning at the state tournament and all the way through the American Legion World Series, games will be seven innings.
 - Department of Virginia Division/League tournaments are defined as Department qualifiers—Department Baseball Committee discussed whether to accept or reject the national rule for Virginia.
 - **Decision:** Baseball Committee decided all leagues will play 7 inning games for regular season to stay in agreement with post-season play. All regular and post-season League games will be 7 innings and the 10-run rule will be in effect after 5 innings or 4 ½ innings completed if the home team is ahead. Managers may agree to play a 9-inning game at their discretion; and if so that is entirely up to the manager to agree to play a 9-inning game at the plate conference; however, all games used to determine league standings will be 7 innings.
- **Courtesy runner and re-entry now optional for Senior Division.** National rule permits Senior Division courtesy runners and re-entry are optional for regular season only. Department and National tournament play will not permit courtesy runner or re-entry. Players may be substituted and return to the game once, provided the player returns to the same slot in the batting order. Courtesy runner for pitcher or catcher and recommended when 2 are out to speed up the game
 - Department Baseball Committee discussed whether to accept or reject the national rule for Virginia.
 - **Decision:** Baseball Committee decided all Virginia ALB will permit Senior Division to use courtesy runners or reentry of starters. Managers may choose to permit courtesy runners or replacement of starters for regular season games.
- **Changes to pitch count** (see pitch count chart attached)
 - Pitchers will have a daily maximum of 105 pitches per day, down from 120
 - Pitchers may only make two appearances in any three consecutive days.
 - Players will be charged with two appearances if they leave the pitching position and return as a pitcher in the same game.
- **Graduated Student.** Language has been removed from the rule book that required 19-year-olds to be former Legion players. However, the flow chart on **page 49** Did the player play previously on a Legion team? Ref: Rule 2.B.4.a. and If “No”, then

the player is not eligible. Per Steve Cloud at National, **the flow chart was not updated but it should have been**. Returning 2017 graduated players must play on last year's team. If that team does not exist in 2018, then its team closest to parents. New 2017 graduated players play for team closest to parents. Any interested 19-year-old must now play for their previous Legion team (if applicable) or the team closest to their domicile. Players who graduated in 2017 shall not be eligible to be transferred (Forms #76 or #77).

- **Number of players in tournament;** Must have 9 players to play
 - Department will NOT make requirement tighter; i.e., 12 throughout
 - After Department tournament begins, players cannot miss a game for another baseball event
 - ◆ Case by case exception
 - ◆ College orientation acceptable example
 - Players can check-in during tournament but must check in with tournament director before play
 - Committee recommended to put the decision at the discretion of the tournament director and baseball chairman

- **Players per Team.** No American Legion Baseball team may have more than 18 registered players once National Form #1 is registered with the department. Each team must register players on National Form #1 via the online registration program with their department by June 25 or the department closing date, whichever comes first. The Department baseball chairman must certify teams to National Headquarters before June 30 to be eligible for national competition.

Important Dates 2018: (See important dates attached)

• **Department Tournament**

- Senior tournament week of 30th July; Host Post TBD
 - Monday, July 30 team registration and tournament dinner
 - Games begin Tuesday, July 31 – August 4
 - Any Post wanting to host contact James Grenier 703-795-5303 or james_grenier@yahoo.com
- Junior, August 1-5; Host Post TBD
 - Registration 2 hours prior to first game
 - Any Post wanting to host contact James Grenier 703-795-5303 or james_grenier@yahoo.com

• **Regional Tournament (8-12 August)** The American Legion National Executive Committee approved the 2017-18 Legion Baseball regional tournament sites on Wednesday during Fall Meetings in Indianapolis. The eight regionals will each send one team to the American Legion World Series in Shelby, N.C.

- The regional tournaments will take place August 8-12, 2018.
- Team banquet Tuesday August 7th
- Region 2 – Mid-Atlantic – Leesburg, Va.
- Mid-Atlantic--Participating teams: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia
- Host: Leesburg Post 34
- Location: Fireman's Field, Purcellville VA

• **World Series (16-21 August)**

- Keeter Stadium, Shelby NC

Baseball Considerations for 2018:

- **Department Tournament Structure.** In response to National Rule 9 tournament Rules; Regional Tournament Host. No regional host team shall be denied the opportunity of participating in department tournaments leading up to the regional tournament. Nor shall any team hosting a department or national regional tournament refuse to participate in any such tournament. Point of Emphasis: The host team for a department or national regional tournament is mandated to participate in the district and/or state tournament until such time as the team is eliminated from competition. Host teams will not be permitted to rest their team to avoid creating an unfair advantage at either a department or national regional tournament.
 - **Department tournament Rule 5.01.B.** creates a Department tournament structure that balances creates 6 divisions or leagues for Junior and Senior tournament structure; the rule creates two tournament rounds a 1.) qualifying round and a 2.) championship round. The qualifying round permits the 6 division/league teams to advance to the Championship round. The division/league with the greatest number of participating teams will earn a second tournament bid; and the host of the championship round will earn the 8th and final Department Championship round tournament bid. See example tournament bid process example based on last year's District and number of teams below.
- **Fees**
 - National Fees (same as last year)
 - Senior: \$50 per team
 - Junior: \$25 per team
 - State Fees (maintain?)
 - Senior: \$250 per team
 - Junior: \$250 per team
 - **Decision: Department Baseball Committee decided to raise fees for Junior teams.** Team fees are used to pay tournament expenses. The Junior tournament has similar cost structure of Senior tournament, but the fees are less than the Senior Division.

- **Insurance:** Insurance cost for the 2018 season will be:

	Junior program	Senior program
General liability	\$68	\$100
Accident (seasonal)	\$130	\$155
Accident (year-round)	\$185	\$225
Admin fee	\$35	\$35
Seasonal Total	\$233	\$290
Annual Total	\$288	\$360

- Funding tournaments
 - The priority should be to have funds to fully cover costs of the banquet, umpires, and hotel in the Department Baseball Account at the beginning of the tournament and available for use at the onset of the tournament
 - Having a successful tournament with banquet is a major aspect of American Legion Baseball value proposition; we ensure the integrity of our program by funding the program less from player fees and more from our ability to raise funds and provide baseball operations from American Legion sources
 - Fees, Senior \$250, Junior \$250
 - ◆ Revenue Senior \$10,000, Junior \$6,000
 - ◆ Additional revenue provided by tournament bid fee and will be provided to Department no later than 2 weeks prior to tournament; tournament bid fee Senior \$3,500, Junior \$2,500
 - ◆ Additional revenue provided by Department Golf Tournament; revenue from golf tournament will offset need for Team Entry Fee

- Banquet approximately \$1,600; tournament host must provide
 - ◆ Additional revenue provided by Tournament Entry Fee of maximum of \$500 per team to fill funding gaps; each league advancing a team to the tournament will provide the fee for the team; 8 teams at \$200, \$300, \$400, or \$500 will yield \$1,600, \$2,400, \$3,200, or \$4,000 in additional revenue
 - ◆ Tournament entry fee will be applied to banquet; if the host can raise funds or get a sponsorship for the banquet, the tournament entry fee will be adjusted accordingly
 - Hotels approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000; hotel for first night for banquet will be responsibility of sponsoring Post; remaining nights will be responsibility of Host Post less funds available from baseball revenue
 - Baseballs—each participating team bring 2 dozen and provide to Tournament Director
 - Tournament Director \$500
 - Player meals Senior and Junior—hosts encouraged to work deal with local restaurants to provide discounted meals for teams; hosts are encouraged to raise funds and provide meals; could be value added for bid proposal and considered in total bid amount
- **Team packets**
 - Baseball Committee had decided to only provide soft copies.
 - Soft copy files will be updated and loaded on www.valegion.org baseball page
 - Form 3 Player Recruitment and school assignment for changed
 - Teams must have Post Commander, Adjutant, or Athletic Chairman to acknowledge responsibility for the team’s behavior. This will ensure baseball teams comply with American Legion values stated in the Code of Sportsmanship.
 - **Baseballs.** An American Legion Baseball authenticating logo is required on all balls that will be used in regular and post season competition. (Wilson, Diamond, Baden, Rawlings, AD STARR).
 - Division/League Chairman or Teams can submit requests for baseballs to ADStarr directly (see ADStarr flyer)

- Player supplements
 - The All Me League was created to raise awareness and stop the growing trend of using performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) other harmful substances in sports and fitness.
www.allmeleague.org
 - Supplement 411; high risk supplements
 - Player pledge
- Baseball website
 - SportsEngine www.valegionbaseball.com
 - \$500 max per year each Department; amount could be less
 - Integrates with GameChanger
 - Pitcher tracking
 - Finance—link directly to bank account
 - Tournament HQ
- Need for greater participation in teams and Posts submitting scholarship packages
 - With the significant scholarship funds available, Posts must follow the process deadlines and submit a package; we should have more than a few each year

Pitch Smart Guidelines

14-22 Years Old

Players can begin using breaking pitches after developing consistent fastball and changeup

Do not exceed 100 combined innings pitched in any 12 month period

Take at least 4 months off from competitive pitching every year, including at least 2-3 continuous months off from all overhead throwing

Make sure to properly warm up before pitching

Set and follow pitch-count limits and required rest periods

Avoid playing for multiple teams at the same time

Avoid playing catcher while not pitching

Avoid pitching in multiple games on the same day

Make sure to follow guidelines across leagues, tournaments and showcases

Monitor for other signs of fatigue

A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game

Required Rest (Pitches)

Age	Daily MAX (Pitches)	0 Day	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
15-16 (recommendation)	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+
ALB Junior	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+
ALB Senior	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+

- There will be limitations on pitcher appearances
 - Pitchers may only make two appearances in any three consecutive days.
 - Players will be charged with two appearances if they leave the pitching position and return as a pitcher in the same game.

American Legion Baseball

Important Dates 2018

Dates to be updated in January

Month	Day	Activity
October	1	DEADLINE ALB National Rule Book Orders due from Departments
	9-12	Commissions & NEC Fall Meetings, Indianapolis IN
December	3-5	National High School Baseball Coaches Association convention, St Louis MO
January	1	Online team registration for the 2018 season begins
	4-7	American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) convention, Nashville TN
February	1	ALB National Rule Book distribution
	1	DEADLINE Tournament bids for ALB Regional 2017-2018 to National Headquarters
	15	DEADLINE ALB Booster Decal orders due to National Emblem Sales
March	31	Establishment of player's legal domicile (parents' domicile) and school enrollment
April	1	DEADLINE Orders for 2018 Official Rules of MLB due for June delivery
	15	DEADLINE Department Rule Books due to National office (email or mail; 5 hard copies)
	15	Report site and date of Sr. and Jr. Department State Tournaments
	15	Plan "A" rezoning or new zoning filed and approved by Department baseball committee
May	1	Distribute ALB Scholarship applications to posts, coaches, and players
	7-10	Commissions & NEC Spring Meetings, Indianapolis IN
	15	DEADLINE to purchase insurance and pay registration fees. Late fee of \$200 charged until June 1 st
June	1	LAST DAY for team registration, purchase insurance and pay fees
	25	DEADLINE to file Form #1 with Department Chairman to be eligible for national tournaments
	30	DEADLINE for Department Chairman to file Form #1 with National office to be eligible for national tournaments

Month	Day	Activity
July	15	DEADLINE Baseball Scholarship applications due at department headquarters
	24-28	Senior Legion State Qualifier tournament, Host and Location TBD, 6 team double elimination
	30, 31-4	Senior Legion State Tournament Registration and Dinner, then Games; Host and Location TBD, 8 team double elimination
August	4	DEADLINE Department chairmen certify Department Champions to National office and regional chairman. Department Tournaments must be completed by 12:00 midnight
	11	DEADLINE Department Scholarship winners due to Shelby ALWS office to be considered for All Academic Team
	7, 8-12	Senior Legion Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament, Fireman's Field, Purcellville VA
	31-4	Junior State Qualifier, Location TBD; 8 team double elimination
	8-12	Junior State, Location TBD; 8 team double elimination
September	16-21	Senior Legion World Series, Keeter Stadium, Shelby, NC
	15	DEADLINE for proposed rule changes to be submitted to the National office for consideration at Fall Conference
	15	DEADLINE for Graduate of the Year nominations to be submitted to the National office for consideration at Fall Conference
	23-25	Fall Baseball Chairman's Conference, Indianapolis IN