

Baseball 2017



The American Legion
Department of
North Carolina



**2016 STATE CHAMPIONS
Post 342 (Rowan County)**

1st Row: Kneeling: Noah Gonzalez, John Owen,
Brandon White, Sawyer Strickland, Bryan Ketchie,
Caleb Link, Brett Graham

2nd Row: Voight Basinger, Seth Graham, Jim Gantt,
Hunter Shepherd, Lee Poteat, Jake Prichard,
Russ Walker, Luke Setzer, Mark Cauble

3rd Row: Dalton Lenkford, Tanner File, Seth Cauble,
Heyden Setzer, Brandon Walton, Trevor Atwood,
Chandler Blackwelder

Baseball - American Legion Baseball activities of the Department are governed by this committee consisting of the four senior area commissioners and one chairman.

BASEBALL COMMITTEE

Chairman

TERRY BOYLES

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AMERICAN LEGION HEADQUARTERS
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**NORTH CAROLINA AMERICAN LEGION
BASEBALL RULES FOR 2017**

(Supplementing and superseding the National Rules)

APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSIONER

PROCEDURE FOR BEGINNING A BALL GAME:

1. OPEN WITH PRAYER.
2. CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP:
I will: KEEP THE RULES
KEEP FAITH WITH MY TEAMMATES
KEEP MY TEMPER
KEEP MYSELF FIT
KEEP A STOUT HEART IN DEFEAT
KEEP MY PRIDE UNDER IN VICTORY
KEEP A SOUND SOUL, A CLEAN MIND,
AND A HEALTHY BODY
3. NATIONAL ANTHEM.

All American Legion regular season, arak or Department playoff games played to determine the NC Champion will be under the jurisdiction of the NC Department Baseball Committee.

1. All Post Athletic Officers shall deal with their Area Commissioner on all matters pertaining to Baseball. Where the matter pertains to teams of two areas, the matter will be referred to the two commissioners for the two areas, and the Department Baseball Chairman. Any appeal to the National Appeals Board, without **written** permission of the Department Baseball Chairman by Fax, email or letter, will immediately disqualify the appealing team from further play.

• All Athletic Officers should obtain a birth record and current address for all players trying out for their ball team. Any player too old or out of **recruiting area** will cause forfeit of **all** games in which said player was on the team roster.

2. All American Legion Baseball Teams operating in North Carolina must comply with the National Rules for American Legion Baseball and the regulations adopted by the Department Baseball Committee as set forth herewith:

A. **Entrance Notice.** A Post deciding to sponsor a Baseball team must file a notice online at www.legion.org/baseball on or before **May 15**.

Teams will be able to enter the program late if approved by the Area Commissioner and Department Chairman. Once a team is approved, a registration fee of \$200 Department fee and \$50 National fee must be filed online using a credit or debit card.

B. **Records Required.** All forms to be used in Baseball activities will be furnished by The American Legion. **ALL FORMS AND RECORDS MUST BE PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS LISTED ON THE FORMS IN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULES.**

Each individual team will be obligated to see that their records are in order and submitted to the Area Commissioner at the prescribed time. Registration and insurance must be filed online at **www.baseball.legion.org**. All forms will be available at this website.

- (1) All American Legion post team sponsors must be incorporated. Any non-American Legion Post sponsor of a Senior American Legion Baseball Team must be incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina. Said non-American Legion Post sponsor may be a for-profit or non-profit corporation as defined by the rulings of the Department of NC Judge Advocate. Said corporate sponsorship application must be signed by the President of said corporate sponsor and attested by the corporate secretary with the attestation incorporating the corporate seal of the corporate sponsor.
- (2) All teams must have a base school from which they may start their recruiting under Plan B. Teams are prohibited from using private schools as base schools. The population of the base school shall be included in the enrollment as required by National Plan B, even if the team does not have any players from base school. All new teams and any change of base schools or feeder schools by existing teams must be approved by the Baseball Committee. Requests for changes must be made by **February 1** to Department Baseball Chairman and the Area Commissioner. Teams not under Plan B will be zoned.
- (3) All teams registered shall file a roster electronically with the Area Commissioner showing the players name, address, date of birth, high school attended and the enrollment of that school as of **as of March 31, 2017**. For insurance purposes this roster must be filed prior to games being played. The total high school enrollment cannot exceed 5,000 students for any game.
- (4) **Resolution 16, adopted during the American Legion 2012 Fall Meetings, mandates a background check screening for coaches, managers and volunteer staff of junior and senior American Legion Baseball teams every year.**
- (5) 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 a "grace" period until June 1 to purchase insurance, but the team will be assessed a late fee of \$200. **Missing the June 1 deadline will result in the disqualification from any further competition.**

- (6) A completed, notarized copy of all Form 2's must be submitted to the Area commissioner prior to first practice.
- (7) **Team Certification of Entry:** Team roster must be completed online prior to June 25. Each team must maintain a certified copy of each player's birth certificate subject to being checked at any time.

ALL SCHOLARSHIP FORMS NOMINATING A PLAYER FOR THE BASEBALL SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE SUBMITTED TO AREA COMMISSIONER.

Birth Certificates. Records of birth must be an **original or a state certified document** from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or Department of Health or other governmental agency authorized to certify birth documents. (A state seal or **appropriate government stamp** shall be visible on the state certified document.)

- a. **Notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital records, baptismal records, school records or certificates are not acceptable proof of age and will disqualify a player and/or the team.**
- b. In case of foreign birth, a player will present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service or by the Department of State that shows the birth date of the bearer. Official birth certificates issued by a foreign country are acceptable when accompanied by a letter with an English translation, and such birth certificate must have an official seal.
- c. A properly **court certified** copy of that portion of permanent legal adoption papers showing the place and date of a player's birth shall be acceptable in cases involving adopted players.
- d. A state issued driver's license that complies with the Federal Real ID Law, or a state issued ID that is also in compliance with the Federal Real ID Law. NC DOT has verified NC driver's licenses are in compliance with the Federal Real ID Law.

Note: It is suggested that when obtaining out-of state certificates that these be requested by the parent or legal guardian. Many states will release birth records only to a parent or guardian.

- (8) **All questions, disputes and protest within the Department shall be decided by the Department Baseball Committee. The Baseball Committee shall have the power to disqualify or suspend anyone violating Department or National Regulations. THEIR RULING SHALL BE FINAL.**
- (9) **Any situation arising in the Department that is not covered by State or National rules will be under the jurisdiction of the Department Baseball Committee whose decision is final.**

- (10) a. A Post and/or Sponsor entering a Baseball team shall be obligated to pay all justifiable financial obligations and/or debts of their baseball team for the previous baseball season prior to acceptance for entry of play and/or continued participation.
- b. Any alleged violation(s) of this rule shall be forwarded to the Internal Affairs Commission of the Department of North Carolina which shall review, investigate, evaluate, and issue a final determination whether a violation occurred.
- c. If the Internal Affairs Commission of The Department of North Carolina determines there is a violation, then in that event, the individual Team will be suspended from entering and/or play until all justified debts or obligations are paid in full. This rule shall be strictly enforced.

C. Territory and Residence:

(1) National Rule 4C applies in the State of North Carolina rules on territory and residence.

National Rule 4C Option Rule: Players attending a high school (including freshmen) outside a team's recruiting area, may have the option of playing for the team nearest the high school the player attends or playing for the team nearest the parent's legal domicile. To determine the nearest team, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by MapQuest.

1. The player must complete National Declaration Form #77, on which the player declares in writing the team for which he wishes to play.
 - (a) Such election shall be for the 2017 season and shall expire on Dec 31, 2017.
2. The team manager must forward Form #77 to the department baseball chairman prior to listing the player on National Form #1.

National Rule 4D Transfer Rule: A player released from a team must obtain permission on National Transfer #76 from the team's manager to play for the team closest to his parent's domicile.

1. To determine the nearest team from amount several, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by MapQuest.
2. the player must provide signed Transfer Form #76 (available online at www.legion.org/baseball) to the new team manager, which must be forwarded to the authorized department baseball official for approval, prior to listing the player on Form #1. All transfers shall be for one year. All transfers shall expire on Dec 31, 2017.
3. Players who graduated from high school in 2016 are not eligible to be transferred.
4. Any transfers across state lines require mutual written permission of both department chairmen.
5. Players who have qualified and played for a Legion team under Rule 4.C are not eligible for a transfer under Rule 4D.

D. Elimination:

- (1) As soon as the Baseball Committee can determine accurately the Posts or Sponsors that are entering teams, it will divide the State of North Carolina into areas and assign a Commissioner to each Area.
- (2) Each Commissioner may divide the teams in his Area into groups or leagues, and shall, before **May 15, 2017**, determine schedules and rules for eliminating teams and determining the Championship Team in their Area, and shall certify **the two participating teams from their area for state championship play by midnight of July 23, 2017.**
- (3) The Department Championship Tournament will begin on **July 26, 2017.**

E. Regulations:

- (1) All conference games will be 9 innings, except as noted on page 8 (7).
- (2) Teams must be properly uniformed before area scheduled play (including Legion Patches according to National Rule 1.S. Failure to comply invokes National Rule. Any team which is unable to field a team with sufficient number of players as outlined in "Official Rules of Major League Baseball", with Legion Patch as outlined by National Rule 1.S.(1), said team shall forfeit said game. Any player, coach or manager who does not have an American Legion Baseball insignia on either the left sleeve or left chest of his uniform shirt will be removed from the game. All outer garments must have patches or approved screen print.
- (3) All umpires will be paid by home team prior to start of game. **All umpires must be certified by authorized booking agent and must have patches, etc.**
- (4) The personnel of Baseball teams shall consist of: (a) Only bona fide players on the team; (b) May have three coaches; (c) One bat person (not adults); (d) Official Score Keeper; (e) The Manager; (f) Certified Trainer. Only the personnel listed and the Post Athletic Officer will be permitted to sit on the players' bench. It shall be the duty of the UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF to enforce this rule. The only adults permitted to be in uniform shall be the Manager and three coaches. Once warned, violation will result in the game being forfeited.
- (6) The Umpire in Chief will be assigned by the Area Commissioner. Booking fee and umpiring fee will be set by the Area Commissioner and booking agent. Only high school or college certified officials will be used. Umpires are not to be permitted to fraternize with any person connected in any manner with a Legion Baseball team. Violation of this rule will result in the umpire being discharged from the American Legion Baseball.

Program. **UMPIRES WHO DO NOT FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE LEGION BASEBALL RULES AND ENFORCE SAME SHALL BE DISCHARGED FROM THE PROGRAM.**

(5) **Protest Procedures.** All protests in area play must be recorded with the home plate umpire before the last out of the game. The area commissioner must be called at that time and written roster must be given to commissioner the next day. The protest must be signed by the Athletic Officer or his duly authorized representative. Protests must be of a specific nature and must set forth definite proof. All protests shall comply with Rule 5D of the National Rule Book in respect to the State Tournament.

ANY PROTEST TO THE AREA COMMISSIONER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A \$100 CHECK OR MONEY ORDER MADE PAYABLE TO THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA, OR CASH. ANY APPEAL TO THE STATE COMMITTEE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A \$200 CHECK.

ELIGIBILITY PROTEST OF PLAYERS MUST BEAR WRITTEN PROOF OF INELIGIBILITY AND MUST BE FILED WITH THE AREA COMMISSIONER BEFORE THE END OF AREA PLAY. PROTEST MUST COMPLY WITH RULE 2 OF THE NATIONAL RULE BOOK.

ANY APPLICABLE APPEAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF NC BASEBALL COMMITTEE SHALL COMPLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF NC CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS. APPEALS TO NATIONAL MUST BE APPROVED BY THE STATE BASEBALL CHAIRMAN. PERSONS OR TEAMS MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FOR APPEALING TO NATIONAL WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER.

Protests involving umpire judgment will not be considered. No telephone protest will be considered. Faxes and emails to be considered as **a legal protest.**

The Umpire-In-Chief will file, immediately after a protested game, a written report with the Area Commissioner and **State Baseball Chairman** as to the circumstances involved.

- (7) All rained-out games must be re-scheduled within 24 hours and the Area Commissioners must be advised of the new date **by the home team athletic officer**. If the two teams involved are unable to reach an agreement as to the time and place of the rained-out game, the Area Commissioner will name the time and place **within the 24 hour period**. If no effort is made to re-schedule or to play rained-out games, games will be forfeited or a position in the play off may be lost at the discretion of the Area or State Commissioner. It is the home team's responsibility to advise the umpires of the new date. No playoff game can be cancelled or rescheduled without the approval of the Area Commissioner or State Baseball Chairman.

DOUBLE HEADERS will be allowed and may be ordered through the entire season when necessary to complete schedules or play-offs. Double Headers shall be shortened to seven innings. It is a regulation game if terminated by the Umpire due to rain or other causes which prevent further play, providing five or more innings have been played or the visiting team has completed five innings. Games may be moved to other parks when necessary, by the Area Commissioner or State Commissioner to complete schedules.

- (8) No player is eligible to play with more than one Senior American Legion team.
- (9) Dual Participation: Any American Legion player who chooses to dual participate shall provide the Area Commissioner with the proper form prior to play, or risk being disqualified. It is the responsibility of the team coach to file all the proper paperwork with the Area Commissioner. Dual participation is not allowed once the state tournament begins, July 26, 2017.
- (10) Co-Sponsorship: In the case of two or more Posts co-sponsoring one team, all Posts must file with Department Headquarters on the Team Entrance Notice.
- (11) In the event a Team is entering play for the first time, those players affected and on last year's roster will have the option to play with the team they started their "career" with or they could play for the new team nearest their parent's legal residence.

Each Player must declare and file National Form 77 as to which team the player wants to play for, and the decision is final for the remainder of their eligibility.

All existing rules will apply to both teams, except those players who, by their declaration, are grandfathered onto the team they started their Legion Baseball career.

(12) All ballgames will be turned over to the Umpires 10 minutes prior to game starting time.

(13) All batters and base runners, bat boys and girls are required to wear double flapped ear protective helmet while in the playing field at all times. **The player's helmet must bear NOCSAE stamp. Violation of this rule will result in a warning to both teams with a subsequent violation resulting in a game forfeit. Base coaches are required to wear a standard batting helmet, with or without earflaps. (Safety rule: Ejection for non-compliance after one warning. Batters are required to wear a standard helmet with earflaps.)**

(14) **Ball Rule.**

Balls approved for use are:

American Legion Emblem ball, Diamond DI, Wilson A1010, Rawlings NCAA, STARR 600, and 800. All balls must be stamped with the Legion Emblem..

F. **Expenses:** All team expenses shall be taken care of by the team sponsors.

G. A fee of \$200 will be assessed each team for the protection against forfeits. The fee shall be submitted to Department Headquarters **CERTIFIED CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF N. C.** No team shall commence play without paying this fee. In case of forfeiture of any game, the \$200 will go to the opposing team and offending team will not be permitted to play further games until another cashier's check for \$200 is received by **Department Headquarters.**

(1) The forfeit fee will be returned when a team withdraws from the baseball program permanently.

(2) Forfeit fees will be retained by Department and not returned if a team withdraws before the end of the season play.

H. **National Rule in respect to Tobacco will be strictly enforced.**

I. For any playoff game that may be a split gate, the following rules will be in effect:

(1) Home team will sell tickets.

(2) Visiting team will collect tickets.

(3) No passes will be honored except State Officials and persons itemized in "Regulations E, Rule 3".

- (4) Gate will be determined by visiting team by multiplying Adult tickets times \$6; Children's tickets by \$5; adding the sums together and then subtracting \$300 plus Umpire fees to arrive at gate to be divided equally between the two teams. If home team is unable to comply, Game will be moved to other team's field. Violation of fair gate splitting will result in game being forfeited and team suspended from further play.

J. Conduct

- (1) Managers, coaches or player who, in the opinion of the Department Baseball Chairman or his Area Commissioner conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner that would discredit this program, may be removed by the Department Baseball Committee. Any applicable appeal from the Department of NC Baseball Committee shall comply with the Department of NC Constitution and By-Laws.
- (2) No player, coach, manager or any other party associated with an American Legion Baseball team shall abuse, heckle or make uncomplimentary remarks to opposing players or team officials. An individual violating this regulation shall be ejected immediately from the game by the umpire.
- (3) Any player, coach, manager or other party accompanying a team will be **ejected from the game** if they:
- a. Use profane language.
 - b. Make unnecessary gestures in protesting an umpire's decision. (Only team managers or coaches may ask for clarification of a rule; they may never argue).
 - c. Throw bats or other equipment.
 - d. Make unnecessary gestures to fans or opposing players.
 - e. Resort to unnecessary roughness on the playing field.
 - f. American Legion officials, including coaches, athletic officers, bat boys, players, etc., who utter derogatory remarks which would indicate the unprofessionalism of an umpire and/or derogatory remarks about Legion Baseball will be suspended. This applies before, during or after the game.

- (4) **Any coach, manager or adult associated with the American Legion baseball team ejected by an umpire must leave the ballpark.**
- Coaches, managers or adults associated with the team (this includes legion member) will automatically be suspended for one game. During the suspension the person will NOT be allowed to attend the game without permission from the Baseball Chairman. Not type of communication with the dugout or team will be allowed. Violation of the rule will be additional suspension as deemed by the Area Commissioner and Baseball Chairman.
- (5) Any person ejected from a ballgame must be reported to the Area Commissioner by the Athletic Officer or manager and the game umpire or Chief umpire no later than noon the day following the suspension. Any suspension for more that one game must be reported to the Baseball Chairman by the Area Commissioner.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 1, 2017 All registration for existing teams must be completed online.
- May 15, 2017 All registration for new teams must be completed online.
- May 15, 2017 All teams must have Form 2. Agreement Form and new Team/Sponsor Entrance Notice on file with Area Commissioners prior to team practice.
- May 15, 2017 Forfeit fee of \$200 made payable to The American Legion must be sent to the Department Headquarters prior to the first game.
- May 15, 2017 All insurance must be paid online.
- May 18, 2017 2017 Baseball may start.
- No later than June 25, 2017 All team rosters with a maximum of 18 players must be submitted online at www.baseball.legion.org. No changes may be made to the roster once submitted.
- July 10, 2017 Any scholarship nomination form must be postmarked or hand delivered to **Area Commissioner** no later than this date.
- July 23, 2017 Area play will be completed and state championship teams will be determined.
- July 25, 2017 Teams representing each area will arrive in Greenville, NC for mandatory orientation. Each participating team shall bring to the Department Chairman, a flash drive with digital team photo, document identifying each person in photo and Form 25, the regional rooming form.
- August 1, 2017 Department Championship to be completed and certified to National Headquarters.

JR. STATE TOURNAMENT
July 19-23, 2017
Location - Mocksville

SR. STATE TOURNAMENT
July 26 – 30, 2017
Greenville, NC
Orientation and Opening Ceremonies July 25
Play starts July 26

REGION 3 TOURNAMENT
will be played
August 2 through 6, 2017
at
Asheboro, North Carolina

REMEMBER:
Any player born in 1998 or thereafter is eligible
for Senior American Legion Baseball.

Terry Boyles, Chairman

WORLD SERIES
will be played
August 10 - 15, 2017
at
Shelby, North Carolina

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE TOURNAMENTS