

NC Senior Legion Baseball 2023



The American Legion
Department of North Carolina



2022 SENIOR STATE CHAMPIONS
Post 10 Wilmington

Players

Back Row: Tanner Collins, Bennett McNeil, Ben Whitehurst, Spencer Nolan, Korbin Pettigrew, Tucker Bowyer, Colton Norris

Front Row: Jason Culley, Nikita Sutherland, Jaxon Croom, Conner Kane, Logan Ponnett, Kayden Crawford

Coaches: Scott Sandlin, Thomas Bowker, Justin Wishon, Chance Shepard

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Chairman

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**NORTH CAROLINA AMERICAN LEGION
SENIOR BASEBALL RULES FOR 2023**
(Supplementing and superseding the National Rules)
APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSIONER

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR BEGINNING A BALL GAME:

1. OPEN WITH PRAYER or MOMENT OF SILENCE
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, Area, 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 and Team Managers shall deal with their Area Commissioner on all matters pertaining to baseball. Where the matter pertains to two teams in different areas, the matter will be referred to the two Area Commissioners and the Department Baseball Chairman. Any appeal to the National Appeals Board, without written permission from the Department Baseball Chairman will immediately disqualify the appealing team from further play.
 - All Athletic Officers should obtain a birth record and a current address for all players trying out for their team. Any player too old or out of the teams recruiting area will cause forfeiture of all games in which said player participated.
2. All American Legion Baseball Teams operating in North Carolina must comply with the National Rules for American Legion Baseball; and the pertinent resolutions including Resolution #16, adopted by the National Executive Committee, October 2016, titled "Expectations for Rendering Proper Respect when Participating in Programs of the American Legion," and the regulations adopted by the Department of North Carolina Baseball Committee as set forth herewith:
 - a) **Team Entry Notice:** A post deciding to sponsor a baseball team must fill out a notice found online at the www.nclegion.org and send to the Department Program Manager by April 1st. Teams may 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 for Department and \$50 National fee must be filed online using a credit or debit card on or before May 15th.
 - 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 ensure that all records are in order and submitted to the proper authority at the prescribed time. Registration and insurance must be filed online at www.baseball.legion.org all other forms and rules are available at this website.

3. All American Legion Baseball teams in NC shall be sponsored by a chartered American Legion Post in good standing. The Post Finance Officer must be a signer on the Post Baseball checking account.
4. 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. 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 1st** to Department Baseball Chairman and the Area Commissioner. Teams not under Plan B will be zoned.

- 5. Resolution #32, adopted during the American Legion 2020 Fall meetings, mandates a background check and abuse awareness training for coaches, managers, and volunteer staff of every American Legion Baseball Team annually.**
6. Every American Legion Baseball team must purchase both group liability and accident insurance from the American Legion's agent of record (K & K insurance) before any player, coach, or volunteer can participate in any team's functions including practices. This coverage must be purchased no later than May 15th. Newly formed teams that miss the established deadline may have until June 1st to submit proof of insurance without penalty. However, they shall not practice or play until the insurance policies have been received and a copy sent to the Area Commissioner and the Department Program Manager. Should a previously registered team miss the established deadline, then they shall have a "grace" period until June 1st to purchase insurance, but the team will be assessed a late fee of \$200. **Missing the June 1st deadline WILL result in the disqualification from any further competition for the upcoming season.**
7. All teams shall have all Form 2's and any other eligibility forms (76, 77, 6, etc.) on file with the Area Commissioner before game play begins.
8. National Form 1 (Team Roster): Team roster must be completed online and submitted prior to the first conference game scheduled or June 25th whichever comes first.
9. Age Verification: Each team must always maintain proof of age in their possession and is subject to inspection at any time.
 - a) Birth Certificate: 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 government agency authorized to certify birth documents. (A state seal or appropriate government stamp shall be visible on the state certified document.)
 - b) Driver's License: 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 that NC Driver's Licenses are following the Federal Real ID Law.
 - c) Foreign Birth: 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.
 - d) Adopted Players: 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. **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.
 - e) 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 team.
10. A Post 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 in American Legion Baseball. 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(s) occurred. If the

Internal Affairs Commission of the Department of North Carolina determines there is a violation(s), 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.

11. All questions, disputes, and protests 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. **THE COMMITTEE RULING SHALL BE FINAL.**
12. **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.**

Territory and Residence

1. **National Rule 4C applies in the State of North Carolina rules on territory and residence.**
 - a) 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 by using the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.
 - b) The player must complete National Declaration Form 77, on which the player declares in writing the team for which he wishes to play. This will be for that playing season year and will expire on December 31st of the same year.
 - c) The Team Manager must forward Form 77 to the Department Baseball Chairman prior to listing the player on the National Form 1.
2. **National Rule 4D Transfer Rule:** A player released from a team must obtain permission on National Transfer Form 76 from the team's manager to play for the team next closest to his parent's domicile.
 - a) To determine the nearest team from among several, use the shortest driving distance as calculated by Google Maps.
 - b) The player must provide a 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 and shall expire on December 31st of that playing year.
 - c) Players who have qualified and played for a legion team under Rule 4C are not eligible for a transfer under Rule 4D.

Elimination

1. The previous year's area assignment will carry over to the current year. As soon as the Baseball Committee can determine accurately the Posts that are entering teams, it will divide the state of North Carolina into areas and assign a Commissioner to each area if a change is warranted.
2. Each Commissioner may divide the teams in his area into groups or leagues, and shall, before May 15 of the current season, determine schedules and rules for eliminating teams and determining the championship team in their area. The Commissioner will also certify the 2 participating teams from their area for the state championship play by the day prior to teams reporting for Orientation at the State Tournament.

Regulations

1. All conference games will be 7 innings to include double headers.

2. Teams must be properly uniformed before area scheduled play in accordance with National Rule 1W.
3. All umpires will be paid by home team prior to the start of the game. **All umpires must be certified by an authorized booking agent and must have legion patches and like uniforms.**
4. Baseball team personnel shall consist of:
 - a) Only players with a Form 2
 - b) Must have at least 2 coaches and up to 3 coaches. (Teams may have more coaches but will be financially responsible for those not covered by National)
 - c) 1 bat boy or girl. (No adults)
 - d) Team Scorekeeper.
 - e) Team Manager
 - f) Certified Trainer

Only the personnel listed, and the Post Athletic Officer will be permitted to sit on the player's 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 coaches. Once warned, continued violation will result in the game being forfeited.
5. The Umpire Booking Agent will be assigned by the Area Commissioner. Booking fee and umpire rates will be determined by the Area Commissioner and Booking Agent. High school certified officials and above will be used. Umpires who do not familiarize themselves with the Legion Baseball Rules and enforce these rules shall be discharged from the American Legion Baseball program.
6. Approved baseballs for the Department of North Carolina will be the American Legion Wilson A1010 stamped baseball. Purchase may be done at nclegion.org.
7. Protest Procedures:
 - a) 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 a written protest must be given to the 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 5 of the National Rule Book in respect to the State Tournament.
 - b) Any protest to the Area Commissioner must be accompanied with a \$100 check or money order made payable to the American Legion Dept. of North Carolina, or cash. Any appeal to the state committee must be accompanied with a \$200 check, money order, or cash.
 - c) Eligibility protest of players must bear written proof of ineligibility and must be filed with the Area Commissioner before area playoffs begin. Eligibility protests must comply with National Rule 2.
 - d) 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.
 - e) Protests involving umpire judgement will not be considered. No telephone protest will be considered only faxes and emails will be considered as a legal protest.
8. All rained-out games must be rescheduled within 24-hrs. and the Area Commissioners must be advised of the new date by the home team athletic officer. If the 2 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-hr. period. If no effort is made to reschedule or to play rained-out games, games will be forfeited or a position in the playoffs may be lost at the discretion

of the Area Commissioner or the State Baseball Chairman. 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.

9. Double headers will be allowed and may be ordered through the entire season when necessary to complete schedules or playoffs. It is a regulation game if terminated by the umpire due to rain or other causes which prevent further play, providing 5 or more innings have been played or the visiting team has completed 5 innings. Games may be moved to other parks, when necessary, by the Area Commissioner or State Baseball Chairman to complete schedules.
10. No player is eligible to play with more than 1 Senior American Legion team.
11. 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 manager or head coach to file all the proper paperwork with the Area Commissioner. Dual participation will end after the regular season and **24 hours before the first Area Playoff game.**
12. Co-sponsorship: In the case of 2 or more posts that co-sponsor a team both posts must be on the Team Entrance Notice and filed with the Department Headquarters.
13. A team entering play for the first time and those players affected that were on last year's roster will have the option to play with the team they started their legion career with or they can play for the new team nearest their parent's legal domicile.

Each player must declare and file a National Form 77 as to which team the player will 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.

14. All ballgames will be turned over to the umpires 10 minutes prior to game starting time.
15. Batters, base runners, bat boys, and bat girls are required to always wear double flapped ear protective helmets while on the playing field. 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 flaps. (Safety rule: Ejection for non-compliance after one warning.)

Expenses

1. All team expenses shall be taken care of by team sponsors.
2. A fee of **\$500** will be assessed each team for the protection against forfeits. The fee shall be submitted to Department Headquarters as a certified check made payable to the American Legion Department of NC. No team shall commence play without paying this fee. In case of forfeiture of any game, the **\$500** will go to the opposing team and the offending team will not be permitted to play further games until another certified check for **\$500** has been received by Department Headquarters.
 - a) **Withdrawal from American Legion Baseball whether permanent or temporary will constitute a loss of forfeit fees and any return to baseball in the future will require repayment of fees.**
3. For any playoff game that may be a split gate, the following rules will be in effect:
 - a) Home team will sell tickets

- b) Visiting team will collect tickets
- c) No passes will be honored except State Officials and persons itemized in Regulations subparagraph 4.
- d) Gate will be determined by visiting team by multiplying the adult tickets by the admission price and the student tickets by the admission price. Add the sums of the 2 types of tickets sold then subtract the standard \$350 for facility and maintenance and subtract the umpire fees. The remainder is then divided equally among the home and visitor teams. If the home team is unable to comply, then the game will be moved to the other team's field. Violations of the fair gate splitting will result in the game being forfeited and the team suspended from further play.
- e) Admission prices for all American Legion regular season play will not exceed \$10
- f) NCAL Baseball Hall of Fame members will admitted to any American Legion Baseball regular, or post season play and Tournaments.

Conduct

1. Managers, coaches, players, and personnel listed in Regulations 4 of these rules, in the opinion of the Department Baseball Chairman or the members of the Department Baseball Committee 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 North Carolina Baseball Committee shall comply with the Department of North Carolina Constitution and By-Laws. Each team must maintain a minimum of 2 coaches.
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 or American Legion Baseball Committee member.
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 head coaches may ask for clarification of a rule; they may never argue).
 - c) Make unnecessary gestures to fans or opposing players
 - d) Throw bats or other equipment
 - e) Resort to unnecessary roughness on the playing field. American Legion officials, including coaches, athletic officers, bat boys/girls, players, etc., who utter derogatory remarks about Legion Baseball will be suspended. This applies before, during, or after the game or season.
4. Any coach, manager, or adult associated with the American Legion Baseball and is ejected by an umpire must leave the ballpark.
 - a) Coaches, managers, or adults associated with the team (this includes any legion member) will automatically be suspended for 1 game. During the suspension the person will NOT be allowed to attend the game without permission from the NC State Baseball Chairman. No type of communication with the dugout or team will be allowed. Violation of this rule will be additional suspension as deemed by the Area Commissioner and the NC State Baseball Chairman.
 - b) Any person ejected from a ballgame must be reported to the Area Commissioner by the Athletic Officer or Team Manager and the game umpire or umpire booking agent no later than noon the day following the suspension. Any suspension for

more than 1 game must be reported to the NC State Baseball Chairman by the Area Commissioner.

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SENIOR DATES OF IMPORTANCE

- April 1st, 2023- Post Agreement forms and Team Entrance Notice along with forfeit fees must be filed at Department headquarters.
- May 15th, 2023- Registration for all teams must be completed.
Commissioners need to maintain a copy of each team's Form 2. Form 2's are needed for each player before they are allowed onto a field for practice or game.
Baseball may begin on this date.
All insurance must be paid online by this date.
- June 25th,2023- Team rosters final date to submit. 18-man National Roster must be submitted online at www.baseball.legion.org . (Must be submitted before 1st conference game whichever comes first.)
- July 15th,2023- Any scholarship nomination forms must be postmarked or hand delivered to Area Commissioner or Department Headquarters no later than this date.
- July 23rd ,2023 Area play will end and State Tournament Teams certified.
- July 24th ,2023 Teams must report for Orientation and each participating team will bring a flash drive with digital team photo, document identifying each person in photo, and Form 25 the regional housing list.
- July 29th ,2023 Department Champion determined and certified to Nation Headquarters.