

**Department of North Dakota
American Legion Baseball**

2026 POLICY MANUAL



The following POLICIES are written to SUPPLEMENT and ADD to the provision of the National American Legion Baseball Rule Book which will be implemented during the 2026 season. Approved by the North Dakota Department of the American Legion Executive Committee on 8 April 2026. This is a working document.

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Welcome to the 2026 American Legion Baseball season! This updated rulebook is your essential guide to the rules of play and key information specific to North Dakota. Each year, we refine the language to ensure clarity and to reflect changes adopted at the national level or by the State Baseball Committee.

We strongly encourage all coaches, players, and administrators to review this rulebook carefully, cover-to-cover. Doing so will help ensure consistency, fairness, and a shared understanding of expectations throughout the season.

Thank you for your commitment to American Legion Baseball and for helping us uphold the tradition of excellence, sportsmanship, and community that this program represents.

Purpose and Scope of American Legion Baseball

1. To inculcate in youth a better understanding of the American way of life and to promote the principles of 100 percent Americanism.
2. To instill in the nation's youth a sincere desire to develop within themselves a feeling of citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty, and team spirit.
3. To aid in the improvement and development of the physical fitness of our country's youth.
4. To build for the nation's future through our youth

American Legion Baseball Code of Sportsmanship

The Code of Sportsmanship, as printed in the National Rule Book, will be recited prior to all tournament games. Therefore, all teams are encouraged to institute reciting the Code prior to games during the regular season.

I will:

1. Keep the rules.
2. Keep faith with my teammates
3. Keep my temper
4. Keep myself fit.
5. Keep a stout heart in defeat.
6. Keep my pride under a victory.
7. Keep a sound soul, a clean mind, and a healthy body

North Dakota Boys State

The Department of North Dakota Athletic Committee requires that all teams refrain from scheduling league games during the week of North Dakota Boys State (June 14 – June 19, 2026) to allow for legion baseball players to fully participate in this worthwhile program. Any manager, coach, or other team official who is found to have used threats, coercion, intimidation, or other undue pressure to prevent or discourage a player from participating in the Boys State program will be subject to a minimum of one-year suspension from NDALB for such behavior.

National Anthem/Respect for the Flag

The American Legion has adopted the following policy concerning the National Anthem for all for all its programs based on this action:

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 12-13, 2016, That the American Legion expects participants of all its programs to show proper respect to the Flag of the United States, always, including during the National Anthem: and be it further.

RESOLVED, That the National Organization of The American Legion recommends to departments and posts that the chairman or director of any American Legion Program make clear to all participants in advance of the program that The American Legion has the expectation for rendering proper respect to the Flag of the United States, always, including during the National Anthem: and be it further.

RESOLVED, That if any participant of any program of The American Legion cannot or will not live up to this expectation, the individual should not be a participant in American Legion programs: and be finally.

RESOLVED, That if any participant of any national-level program of the American Legion cannot or will not live up to this expectation, the individual will be removed from the program and not be allowed any further participation.

Therefore, it is the policy of the Department of North Dakota Athletic Committee that any participant in a North Dakota program will be subject to the criteria and penalties cited above.

See the National 2026 Rulebook for American Legion Baseball to familiarize you with the rule changes effective for the 2026 American Legion Baseball Season.



Department of the North Dakota

American Legion Baseball Athletic Committee

Chairperson Russ Kroshus 701-426-5102
northdakotalegionbaseball@gmail.com

Class AA Commissioner Damian Huettl 701-400-8520

Class A Commissioner Brent Everson 701-238-1930
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2026 Important Dates

Jan 1

Team registration opens.

May 15

Deadline for Early Registration

June 1

Final Day to Register Team Application

Purchase Insurance

Pay 2026 Registration Fees

June 25

Background and Child Safety Training Completed

Team Registration Form 1 (Rosters) due

July 1

Scholarship and Hall of Fame Nominations Due

September 1, 2026

Deadline for submission of recommended policy changes to Dept Hqs.



2026 American Legion Baseball Rule Changes-National

The Americanism Commission has approved the following rule changes for the 2026 American Legion Baseball season:

1.G. Courtesy Runners. Departments may use the courtesy runner during regular and post season.

1.S. One-Way Communication. A coach may use one-way electronic communication with the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches. **(See Page 7)**

6.D. Dual Participation. Including player combine/evaluation of extended drills and/or game-like scenarios events with proper documentation and prior written approval from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman under CLARIFICATION. **(See Page 13)**

9.L. Minimum Active Players. Senior teams that have fewer players available from their approved roster strength are permitted to bring up players registered on their affiliated junior roster to the senior team to approved roster strength.

9.M. Between Inning Time Limit. During state, regional and world tournaments, 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). **(See Page 17)**

The following Major League Baseball (MLB) rules have not been adopted for regular season or tournament play:

Rule 2.03 – 18-Inch Bases (no penalty or forfeit if used)

Limit the number of throws (pick-off attempts) to first base.

Rule 5.10g – Minimum Batters Faced Requirement

Ohtani Rule 5.11(b) – ALB rule is designated hitter for pitchers only.

Pitcher's Clock

a) Rule 5.07(c) – Pitcher Delays 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) Rule 5.10(m) – Limitation on Number of Mound Visits Per Game

b) Rule 5.10(l) – ALB will continue to follow the two visits per inning that requires a change of pitcher.

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



Rule 1

PLAYING REGULATIONS

The Official Baseball Rules and National Rules shall govern all games, except as follows during the 2026 North Dakota American Legion Baseball Season:

G. Courtesy Runners - Courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher will only be allowed for all Class AA Class A, Class B, and Junior regular season and post season games. (new in 2026)

I. **Designated Hitter Rule** – A designated hitter may be used in all Class AA, Regular and Post Season games in accordance with the Major League Baseball American League Designated Hitter Rule, which allows a DH for the pitcher, only.

a. Class A, Class B and Junior Legion teams may use the Designated Hitter for any player in the line-up in accordance with Junior Rule Book National Rule 1.I.

Legion program: "A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game. A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the starting lineup. A designated hitter for said player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer. Failure to declare a designated hitter prior to the game precludes the use of a designated hitter in that game. If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designated hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter. A designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation.

O. Insurance - ALL TEAMS MUST BE COVERED BY K & K Insurance. ACCIDENT-MEDICAL AND LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR THE ENTIRE SEASON! Insurance must be purchased online by 1 June 2026.

T. Pitching Rules – Pitch count and appearance rules in National Rule 1.R and all and clarifications will be in force for all regular season and post-season games for Class AA, Class A and Junior teams.

AGE	DAILY MAX	REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)				
		0 Days	1 Days	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
Senior Program	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+

*** If a team has multiple games on the same day, a pitcher who pitches more than forty-five pitches in Game 1 may not pitch in a subsequent game that same day and is required to follow the rest protocol. If he throws forty-five pitches in Game 1, he may return to pitch in Game 2, subject to the limit of 105 pitches for the day.**

It is recommended that Junior Legion teams' pitchers be limited to throwing no more than 95 pitches per game.

No American Legion Baseball player may make more than two (2) appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period. *One pitch (or more) to a batter constitutes an appearance.

*After one visit to the mound if a pitcher is moved to a defensive position during a game — and is later returned to the mound as pitcher during the same game — a second appearance is charged.

* When a game is suspended on one day and completed on another following day, pitches (and appearances) will be counted on the day in which the pitches are thrown.

***Violation** of the above rules shall cause the pitcher to become an illegal pitcher; the penalty for such is ejection of the manager/head coach and removal of the player as a pitcher if a protest is filed with the umpire-in-chief before the last out of the game. The manager/head coach will also serve an immediate, additional one-game suspension.

Class B Legion Teams will use NDHSSA Pitching Regulations

S. One-Way Communication- For Class AA, Class A, Class B, and Junior A divisions, a one-way electronic communication device is permitted only between the coach and catcher for the purpose of calling pitches. A coach may not use an electronic communication device outside the dugout. in-game communication.

Other Electronic Devices. Audio/video recording devices may be used outside the dugout, but the information shall not be relayed to or received by game participants during the game. Electronic devices, such as computers, tablets, and smartphones, are allowed both inside and outside of the dugout strictly for score keeping purposes and for communicating the results or progress of the game. Except for those electronic communications specifically permitted, all other in-game communications utilizing electronic devices by the participants is prohibited.

U. Re-Entry-The National re-entry rule will be in effect for all Class A and Class B regular season games. There will be no re-entry allowed in Class AA regular or post-season play.

X. Payer & Coaches Uniform- In 2026, all player uniforms must feature either the Crossed Bats Emblem on the left sleeve or left chest, or the American Legion Baseball Brand Mark. Coaches are required to wear their team's uniform to enter the field, and any wind shirts or jackets worn by coaches must also display the Crossed Bats Emblem or the American Legion Baseball Brand Mark.



Rule 2

PLAYER'S ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. Player Age - Players on Class AA, Class A or Class B North Dakota Legion Baseball teams must have been born on or after January 1, 2007. Any Legion Baseball program can field a junior team providing all players are born on or after January 1, 2009.

B. Player's Domicile-A player's legal domicile shall be established before March 31 of the current season.

1. A player's domicile shall be his parent's or permanent court appointed guardian's permanent and legal domicile.

B.4. 2025 Graduated Students: In North Dakota shall play for the Last American Legion team they played for.

When a player and his parents move into a community after March 31, the player is immediately eligible to play American Legion Baseball in that community if he notifies Dept. Athletic Committee Chairperson Russ Kroshus, 1518 Canyon Drive Bismarck, ND 58501, by May 1, 2026, and is granted approval.

D. Proof of Eligibility With respect to American Legion Baseball participation, the State Baseball Committee will only accept, as proof of age ...

1. A U.S. government-issued passport, certified birth certificate, Real ID, and U.S government-issued military ID card or dependent ID card.

2. Records of birth that are original or certified documents from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health, County Recorder, or other government agency authorized to issue/certify birth documents; these documents typically have a raised seal or certifying authentication of the issuing agency.

a. Notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital records, baptismal records, school records, or other such records are not acceptable proof of age and will result in disqualification of the player or team.

b. In the case of foreign birth, the player will present the applicable certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the Department of Homeland Security (such as a NEXUS card) or Department of State, which documents that agency's accepted, official birth date of the bearer. Official birth certificates issued by a foreign country are acceptable, when accompanied by a letter with a certified English translation; such a birth certificate must have an official seal.

c. A court-certified copy of that portion of a permanent legal adoption record, showing the place and date of a player's birth, shall be acceptable in cases involving players who have been adopted.

3. A U.S. government-issued military ID card or dependent ID card



Rule 3

PLAYER SELECTION: PLAN A

The Plan A player selection method (zone-based) as outlined within National American Legion Baseball Rules is not applicable within the North Dakota American Legion Baseball program.



Rule 4

Player Selection: Plan B

Only the Plan B (base school/high school attending) player selection method is used in the North Dakota American Legion Baseball program. Both Senior and Junior Legion players will play for the base school/high school they are attending. When a player's domicile is within the attendance area of a base school, players will play for that team. The exception is for communities fielding more than one Class AA team, these teams will follow the guidance of the North Dakota Athletic Committee.

A player enrolled in high school in a state other than his legal residence, will play with the team of his legal residence. If no team is available, he must play with the school he attends.

Example#1

A player attends (or would normally attend) a high school that is in a base school's attendance area. • The player's domicile is also in that base school attendance area. • Accordingly, the player can only play for that base school team.

Note: if the player's school of attendance is a private base school, and it is located within another base school's attendance area (e.g., a public base school's attendance area), the player is eligible to make an option election to play for the private base school team — or for the public base school team whose attendance area encompasses his school of attendance.

If no program is available in his community and a player is in school, he must play with the team recruited from the school he attends. If no team is recruited from his school or in the community of his legal residence, established prior to March 31 of this year, he must play for the team nearest his legal residence provided he is eligible to compete with this team and his election must be in writing and filed with and approved by Russ Kroshus, 1518 Canyon Drive, Bismarck, ND 58503 by May 1, 2026. In cases involving the crossing of state lines, mutual written permission of both Department Chairpersons is necessary.

Rule 4.B.2

Teams may not recruit players(s) from another team's school base.

Rule 4D-Transfer Rule-Form 76

A player released/cut from a team must obtain permission from the team's manager/coach to play for another team by filling out a National Transfer Form 76. (The athletic committee will oversee transfers on a one and one basis).

Players in North Dakota who have played in a Legion baseball program for two seasons will not be considered for transfers. The mission of Legion Baseball is to promote sportsmanship, loyalty, and team spirit.

Rule 4.G. Final Year of Eligibility

American Legion Baseball players who have one year of eligibility remaining will play for last team played for, if a player's parents have moved out of the team's school base area, shall have an option of playing for the team nearest their parent's new domicile or returning to their former team.

Rule 4.1 New Team Formation

Presentation to be made at American Legion Baseball Committee Year in Review Meeting
Third weekend in October

Forming a New Team

- Presentation and Approval from American Legion Post
- Sponsor American Legion Post number.
- Other Sponsor information if applicable?
- Is this a new team?
- Legion Post: Commander or Adjutants name?
- Money-minimum of \$50,000.00 per team
- Legion team Class AA, Class A, Class B or Junior Team
 - Pipeline of legion age baseball players to field two teams.
 - One to play and one showing numbers to build program.
- Location and name of home baseball field-games and practice?
 - Signed lease agreement for field for practice and games.
- Contact name?
- Contact phone number?
- Contact email?

The North Dakota American Legion Baseball Executive Committee will review your information for the following:

- **Whether the formation of your team will have a negative impact on existing teams of good standing in your area.**
- **Whether you can show sufficient roster strength to ensure that you can complete all games during the season, including post season tournaments.**
- **Whether you can show you have sufficient economic support to pay all costs for play – National fees, State fees, required insurance, uniforms with required Legion patches, baseballs, umpire fees, etc.**

The Executive Committee will then vote on whether to allow application. You will be notified of that decision. If approved, you will participate in the annual online team registration process which begins January 1st of each year. All coaches and team administrators are required to have a background check done each season.



Rule 5

PROTESTS

- A. The Department Athletic Committee will manage all formal protests of rules other than those made during a game, which will be managed by the chief umpire. All decisions of the Committee are final.
1. Filing Deadlines - Protests of rulings, other than those made during a game, can be made anytime during the season but must be submitted to the Department Athletic Committee Chairperson, Russ Kroshus, 1518 Canyon Drive, Bismarck, ND 58501, within 15 days of knowledge of a violation or dispute. (See Policy 9.C for specific deadline for protest involving player eligibility.)
 2. Filing Fee - Due to the increase in time and expenses related to managing a protest, a \$25 deposit must accompany the protest filed with the Department Athletic Committee. The protesting post must pay any court costs that may be incurred because of a protest.
 3. Processing Time - The Department Athletic Committee will make every effort to resolve properly filed protests within five workdays.
 4. Investigation - Any coach or manager who, in any way, interferes with the investigation of the eligibility of players will be suspended from the Legion Baseball program for a minimum of one year.



Rule 6

TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION

Team Registration - All posts and sponsoring organizations must complete the **Team Entry Form** online at www.legion.org/baseball by **June 1, 2026**.

- **Senior Teams:** National Team Entry Fee \$100 + State Fee \$160 + National Admin Fee \$25 = **\$285 total**
- **Junior Teams:** National Team Entry Fee \$75 + State Fee \$140 + National Admin Fee \$25 = **\$240 total**

All fees must be submitted with the form. Teams that do not meet this deadline will be **ineligible** for the 2026 season. **No exceptions will be made.**

1. **Form 1** – National Form 1 will be completed online after the team entry form is approved. Filing deadline for Form 1 is prior to June 25, 2026. (Form 1's) will be downloaded by Department Athletic Committee Chairperson Russ Kroshus, 1518 Canyon Drive, Bismarck, ND 58501, C – 701-426-5102/northdakotalegionbaseball@gmail.com

2. **Errors** - The Department Athletic Officer in charge of your Region/Division will notify all teams whose forms are incomplete by June 25, 2026, so they can correct errors by midnight, June 30, 2026.
3. **Incomplete Form 1 Disqualifies Team** - Any team whose forms are not complete by midnight, June 25, 2026, will not be allowed to compete in all post-season tournaments according to State Policies and National Rules.

Team Photograph - All Class AA, Class A, Class B, and Junior Teams must submit a digital Team photograph at the time they submit their completed Form 1. Each team photograph **MUST** include the identification of personnel shown on the picture.

Dual Registration – Any number of players listed on a Senior team roster may be eligible to play on their junior squads providing that they meet all eligibility requirements for Junior play, and they are duly listed on the posts Junior roster by the official roster deadline.

Rule 6.D-Dual Participation/Playing on Other Teams –North Dakota Dual Participation Policy.

A player who foregoes participating in more than 20% of his team's regularly scheduled games in a season due to his participation in a competing organization, program, or event shall be immediately ineligible to participate in North Dakota post-season play; however, a player's eligibility for national American legion post-season play (regional and world series) will be determined according to the national American Legion organization.

Additionally, any player who foregoes participating in any part of North Dakota post-season play, including "play-in" or qualification games occurring after the regular season, due to his participation in a competing organization, program, or event shall be immediately ineligible to participate in the remainder of North Dakota post-season play.

A competing organization, program, or event shall be broadly interpreted, and include, but is not limited to, any baseball or baseball-related program, league, game, tournament, tryout, combine, evaluation, showcase, workout, etc. A competing organization, program, or event does not include participating on a team within the player's own program or organization, such as another American Legion baseball team or Babe Ruth team, nor does it include a showcase or tryout whereby participation is strictly limited to an invitation-only basis.

However, if a North Dakota program or organization also fields a team for ages 14-19 during the North Dakota American Legion baseball season (the period immediately following the conclusion of the North Dakota High School Activities Association's state tournament through the conclusion of the North Dakota American Legion State Tournament) that is not sanctioned by American Legion or Babe Ruth, a player's participation on said team shall be deemed participation in a competing organization, program, or event.

A team's regularly scheduled games shall include all games on the team's official season schedule along with tournament games, less canceled games; however, a team's participation in tournament games specifically determined by the team's performance do not count, such as a championship game or bracket play involving the winners or top seeds of pool play to the exclusion of the lower seeds. A player is considered to forego participating when he is not present at his American Legion team's game as verified by Gamechanger, iScore, or the team's official lineup card presented to the umpire in chief, whether or not the player actually appears or plays in the game.

A coach or manager inadvertently or intentionally identifying a player as participating in a game on Gamechanger, iScore, or on the official lineup card when the player is not actually present shall subject the head coach and player to disciplinary action on a case-by-case basis. The team manager and player must submit National Form #6 to the state chairman and obtain the state chairman's written approval prior to participating in the competing, organization, program, or event.

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 responsibly to his American Legion Baseball Team.

1. Completed ALB Form #6-American Legion Baseball Request for Dual Participation-to North Dakota American Legion Baseball Chair 1 week prior to the dual participation date.
2. Dates that the player will be gone from playing Legion Baseball included with ALB Form #6.
3. Post season for Class AA begins on 28 July 2026, Class A begins on 23 July 2026, and Class B begins on 24 July 2026.

Rule 6.E.4-Season ending injury.

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.

Rule 6.4.F-Sponsorship - Outside companies, groups, or clubs may sponsor a team or league in The American Legion Baseball program.



Rule 7

SPORTSMANSHIP/CONDUCT

A. During the Regular Season - Any player, coach or manager ejected from a game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the following game as well. Any ejection must be reported to the baseball committee by having the game umpire-in-chief or the manager of the team hosting the game send an email to the following address: nick_kulas@bismarckschools.org. This email will include the names of the participant(s) that were ejected, the name of the umpire doing the ejection and a brief description of the behavior that caused the ejection. This will allow for the tracking of repeat offenders. Failure to report these incidents could result in disciplinary action being taken against the host team.

B. Heckling/Bench Decorum – Chatter is a baseball tradition and positive language directed at your teammates is encouraged. However, language directed at opposing players or coaches in a negative or derogatory manner, or noise or sounds not associated with the game of baseball that are meant to cause a distraction to the opposing team will not be tolerated. The penalty for “bench jockeying” will be ejection from the game for the offending player or players if identified by game officials. Failure to control this behavior after an umpire warning could result in the ejection of coaches or managers as deemed necessary by the umpiring crew.

C & D During a Department Tournament - Any player, coach or manager ejected from a game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct will be suspended for the remainder of the game and the next game tournament unless he is re-instated by the Tournament Umpire-in-Chief, the Tournament Manager, and the Department Athletic Committee Representative in charge of the tournament.

Booster Groups/Post Responsible for Players Conduct - All legion/booster groups will be held responsible for the conduct of their players during the baseball season and during tournament play. It is strongly urged that the Team Manager or another adult be always in the dugout. It is mandatory that team personnel stress to the team that any derogatory or improper use of social media or on-line bullying as pertains to American Legion Baseball will not be tolerated.



Rule 8

DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION

A. Department Policies - The Department Athletic Committee is responsible for formulating Department Policies. All corrections and recommended changes must be submitted to the Committee Chairperson prior to January 1st of each year.

Appointments and Supervision - The Department Athletic Chairperson oversees his assignment and will appoint a qualified district/divisions representative to help supervise the American Legion Baseball program.

Umpire-in-Chief – The Department Athletic Committee has appointed Nick Kulas as Umpire-in-Chief to oversee the Department Baseball Program, as well as a Deputy Umpire-in-Chief for each classification in the program. The Umpire-in-Chief and his Deputies will:

Assist the Department Athletic Committee on:
Setting up rules' clinics and umpire workshops
Selecting umpires for Regional, Divisional, and State tournaments
Interpreting rules situations
Creating an information and reporting system for umpire and committee use
Whatever other duties the Committee Chairperson may designate.

Team Commitment - The signing of Form 1 by players, coaches, and team managers is a commitment to play Legion Baseball without interference from any other organized sport and is a guarantee that they will participate in tournament play if they are qualified. Pulling out of tournament schedules without a release from the Department Athletic Committee shall be subject to a \$200 fine payable to the host post of tournament site and suspension or probation from Legion Baseball for one year. This applies to the coach as well as the team regarding suspension and probation.

Class AA Teams – At a minimum, teams from the communities of Bismarck, Dickinson, Fargo-Post #2, Grand Forks, Mandan, Minot, Bismarck, Fargo Post-400, Jamestown, and Williston will be Class AA teams. All other teams wishing to compete in the National post-season tournament play must register as Class AA teams. The final regular season standings will determine the seeding for the 2026 State AA Post Season. Rainouts do not need to be made unless they affect the standings. If a make-up is required to be played, the game will be forfeited by any team not willing to play the make-up game.

Class A Teams – During the 2026 season there will be an East and West Division for Class A Baseball. Teams in each Division will be based on team registration. They will compete in the regular season in a two Divisional format. At the conclusion of the regular season, a state double elimination postseason tournament.

Class B Teams - Senior American Legion Class B baseball teams as designated by the North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA).in North Dakota are organized into seven districts. At the conclusion of the regular season, each district shall conduct a double elimination postseason district tournament.

Junior Teams – During the 2026 season North Dakota American Legion Baseball will field an eight/nine team (depending on teams registered) statewide league. At the conclusion of the regular season, a state double elimination postseason tournament.

Teams classified as **Class B** may petition to reclassify as **Class A**. Such reclassification requires the **approval of the athletic committee** and is subject to the committee's discretion. All teams will be required to play in the Class A division for two years.

Rule 9

North Dakota American Legion Baseball-Department Post Season Tournaments

D.

Eligibility protests of players involved in national tournaments must bear written proof of ineligibility and must be filed with the department or national tournament director at each such tournament no later than 9 a.m. Local time on the first day of the tournament involved, except upon discovery of a rule's violation. When a rules violation is discovered,

E-ALB-Risk Management Policy

Team Manager, Coach, Staff Eligibility.

A non-Legionnaire may function as team manager or coach.

Per law, in the interest of player safety, all coaches (head and assistant) and players who have reached the age of 18 must undergo and successfully pass an annual background screening through the designated provider and complete abuse awareness training (and provide proof thereof) through a designated provider, per Public Law 115-126: Protecting Youth Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sports Authorization Act of 2017. Such training is required every year and must be renewed thereafter to maintain compliance and eligibility to participate in American Legion Baseball.

Background checks and Adult Awareness Training link

<https://opportunities.averity.com/AmericanLegionND>

M. Between Inning Time Limit.

For the 2026 season, the between-inning time-limit policy will not be implemented in Class A, Class B, or Junior divisions.

The policy will be used on a test basis in Class AA.



2026 Post Season Tournaments

Class AA, Class A, Class B, and Junior State Champions will be determined in separate State Tournaments. The winning team of the Class AA tournament will be certified by the Department Athletic Committee Chairperson and advance to the Central Plains Regional Tournament. Any Class A or B team wishing to participate in the Class AA Tournaments for the opportunity to advance to the National competition must petition the North Dakota Athletic Committee prior to January 1, 2026.

2026 North Dakota American Legion Baseball Post Season				
Class AA	State Tournament	July 28-August 1, 2026	Post 2-Fargo	Ryan Perreault
	Central Plains	August 5-9 2026	Post 40-Mandan	Kurt Miller
	American Legion Baseball World Series	13-18 August 2026	Shelby, NC	Steve Cloud
Class A	East Regional	23-26 July 2026	East- Post 400- Fargo	Jeff Gould
	West Regional	23-26 July 2026	West -Post 3 - Dickinson	Reese Mack
	State Tournament	July 30-August 3, 2026	Post 37- Williston	Larry Grondahl
Class B	District Tournaments (7)	Completed by July 24, 2026	TBD	
	State Tournament	July 31-4 August 2026	Post 7-Lisbon	
Junior Legion	State Tournament	20-21 July 2026-Play in	Post 6- Grand Forks	Bob Greene
		23-28 July 2026		

Advance Tournament Fee – Legion/baseball booster groups sponsoring Legion Baseball Tournaments are required to make payment of tournament fee, prior to holding tourney as follows: State Class AA \$150.00, Class A State \$150.00, State Class B \$150.00, and Junior \$100.00. Check in the correct amount should be made payable to the ND American Legion and submitted to Department Headquarters, Box 5057, Fargo, ND 58078, prior to the tournament. Department representatives are responsible for collecting these fees.

Athletic Officers Expenses for Tournament-The expenses of the Department representative at the Divisional, Regional, and State Tournaments, to include meals, lodging, and mileage, will be paid by the Tournament Host Managers upon presentation of statement of expenses connected with such tournament. THIS IS AN OBLIGATION OF THE Post-Baseball Legion/Booster Group HOSTING TOURNAMENTS.

Double-elimination format will be used in all Regional, Divisional, and State Tournaments. Play-in games if needed to determine the field for post-season play will be single elimination.

Rain Delay - If a tournament game is halted by rain, it will continue from point of interruption, regardless of inning, unless time is a factor in completing tournament. In that case, five innings (Class AA, Class A, Class B, and Junior) would constitute a completed game.

Ten Run Rule - All games will be considered a completed contest if one team is leading by ten or more runs at the end of five innings, or the end any inning thereafter for Class AA, Class A, Class B and Junior games. This rule applies to all tournament games.

Game Length - All Class AA, Class A, Class B, and Junior Tournament play will be seven innings.

Ceremonies – Tournament officials will make certain that The National Anthem will be played at least once daily at all Post Season State Tournaments. The American Legion Baseball Code of Conduct will be recited by all players and coaches prior to every Post Season games.

Competition in State Tournaments (Class AA, A, B, and Junior) is open only to teams that have been properly registered prior to June 1, 2026.

Eligibility Protests - One week prior to the start of the Post Season Tournament will be the deadline for filing all protests of player eligibility. No protest as to player eligibility will be allowed after this date. A \$25 deposit must accompany a protest filed with the Athletic Department Committee. The protesting post must pay any court costs.

North Dakota American Legion Baseball Post Season-Class AA Tournaments

All Class AA State Post Season Tournament games will be seven innings with the 10-run rule in effect for all tournament games after five innings.

The Class AA American Legion double elimination State Tournament will be held in Fargo, ND hosted by Post #1 July28- August 1, 2026. Regular season records within the League will be used to seed the teams for post season play. In the event of a tie involving two or more teams, the first tie breaker will be head-to-head, won-lost records among the teams that are tied. Should a tie remain, the second tiebreaker will be runs allowed in games between the tied teams. Should a tie remain, the third tie- breaker will be runs scored in games between the tied teams. Should a tie remain, the final tiebreaker will be a coin toss involving the teams that are tied. This coin toss will be managed by the Department Athletic Chairperson with authority over that tournament after proper notification to the teams involved. This tournament will be under the supervision of Department Athletic Committee Chairperson Russ Kroshus. **The home team will be based on higher seed in statewide regular season standings.** The winner of this tournament will advance to the Central Plains Regional Tournament in Mandan, hosted by Post 40, August 5-9, 2026.

North Dakota American Legion Baseball Post Season-Class A Tournaments

Class A Playoff Tournaments - All Class A Divisional and State Tournament games will have seven innings with the 10-run rule in effect after five innings.

DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENTS - All teams in Class A will compete in Divisional Tournaments to determine advancement to the State Class A Tournament. At least one week before the Divisional Tournament, the Department Athletic Officer in charge of the Division will call a meeting of Team Managers in the Division to make the drawings for the Divisional Tournament. The top four Divisional Tournament placers will advance to the State Class A American Legion Baseball Tournament, except for the division of the State Tournament host, which will place the top three and the host team should the host team not qualify for advancement.

STATE A TOURNAMENT - The American Legion eight team double elimination Class A Tournament will be held 30 July-3 August 2027, in Williston, ND with Post 37 as the host.

Teams participating will be the top three placers from the Class West Divisional Tournament, and American Legion Williston-Post 37 and the top four places in the East Divisional Tournament. The tournament will be under the supervision of Brent Everson, Class A Commissioner.

If the host team has placed higher than a #4 seed in the divisional tournament, they will assume the seed earned and then play the last game of the day on the first day of the state tournament.

North Dakota American Legion Baseball Post Season-Class B Tournaments

All Class B Regional and State Tournament games will be seven innings with the 10-run rule in effect after five innings.

DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENTS - All teams in Class B competition will participate in District Tournaments to determine advancement to the State Class B Tournament. All 2026 Class B Divisional Tournaments must conclude on July 24, 2026, unless it is delayed by weather. Failure to comply with this rule will result in the forfeiture of the Site Tournament berth by the offending region. At least one week before the Regional Tournament, the Department Athletic Officer in charge of the Division will call a meeting of Team Managers in the Region to make the drawings for the Division Tournament. The divisional winner will advance to the State Class B American Legion Baseball Tournament, except for the division of the State Tournament host, which will place the Champion, and the host team should the host team not qualify for advancement.

STATE TOURNAMENT - The American Legion eight-team double elimination Class B Tournament will be held July 31-4 August 2026, in Lisbon, ND hosted by Post 07. Teams participating will be the winners of the Class B District Tournaments and the host team. If the district champion is the host team, the district runner-up will assume the position of the host team for tournament bracketing. The host team (Lisbon-2026) will play the last game of the day on the first day of the state tournament.

North Dakota American Legion Baseball Post Season-Junior Division Tournament

Junior State Tournament – A statewide state tournament will be hosted in Jamestown 23-26 July 2026. The tournament format will be decided after team registration has been completed.



Umpires

Umpires - All umpires are urged to attend an American Legion Umpire Baseball Instructional Clinic or a ND High School Activities Association Umpire Clinic that are scheduled in your area. Clinic attendance is MANDATORY for umpires desiring assignment to Sectional and State Tournaments. Umpires selected for post season tournaments will be selected by The Department Athletic Committee with recommendations from the Department Umpire-in-chief, and his deputies, and the tournament host committee Chairperson.

At a minimum, there shall be at least two competent umpires at all games in the Class B District and Class A Divisional, except for Championship games in Class B Districts and Class A Divisional, where three umpires will be used. There shall be three competent umpires at all games in Class AA, A, and B State Tournaments.

Umpires will receive a minimum of \$100.00 per game, \$.58 per mile and hotel room provided by the host.

Class AA and A Post Season Umpire Selection

Umpires who wish to work in the North Dakota American Legion Baseball State Tournament must apply by submitting the official form provided by the State UIC no later than June 10. Once applications are collected, AA and A coaches will be asked to review the pool of candidates and select three umpires each. These selections must be submitted by June 20, ensuring that coaches have a voice in the process and that the most qualified officials are considered.

By June 30, the State UIC and the state tournament manager will finalize the umpire crews for the tournament. Up to nine umpires may be chosen, with assignments varying so that some officials may only work two to three days. This structure allows flexibility while ensuring that the tournament is adequately staffed with experienced personnel.

Selections are based on several factors, including umpire experience, recommendations from local assignors and peers, and input from coaches. Proximity to the host site is also considered to help manage costs. Importantly, an umpire must have worked at least five nights of NDALB to be eligible, and those who have officiated more games will be given preference in the event of a tie. This balanced approach ensures fairness while prioritizing commitment and quality.

Class B and Junior Post Season Umpire Selection.

For the Class B and Junior Post Season, the commissioners for each division, along with the tournament host, will oversee the selections. **Nick Kulas, Head Umpire for North Dakota American Legion Baseball**, will be there to give guidance and keep things consistent across the board.



North Dakota State Specific

Rule 1.S

Class B Legion Teams will use NDHSSA Pitching Regulations

Rule 4-Player Selection: Plan B

Only the Plan B (base school/high school attending) player selection method is used in the North Dakota American Legion Baseball program. Both Senior and Junior Legion players will play for the base school/high school attending. When a player's domicile is within the attendance area of a base school, players will play for that team. The exception is for communities fielding more than one Class AA team, these teams will follow the guidance of the North Dakota Athletic Committee.

Rule 4D-Transfer Rule-Importance of North Dakota American Legion Baseball

American Legion Baseball helps young athletes grow by promoting sportsmanship, loyalty, and team spirit while building character on and off the field. In North Dakota, players who have already spent two seasons in a Legion program are not eligible for transfers, reinforcing commitment and team stability. Through its focus on integrity, discipline, and community pride, Legion baseball continues to strengthen youth and the communities they represent.

Advance Tournament Fee

Legion/baseball booster groups sponsoring Legion Baseball Tournaments are required to make payment of tournament fee, prior to holding tournament as follows: State Class AA \$150.00, Class A State \$150.00, State Class B \$150.00, and Junior \$100.00. Check in the correct amount should be made payable to the ND American Legion and submitted to Department Headquarters, Box 5057, Fargo, ND 58078,

Athletic Officers Expenses for Tournament

The expenses of the Department representative at the Divisional, Regional, and State Tournaments, to include meals, lodging, and mileage, will be paid by the Tournament Host Managers upon presentation of statement of expenses connected with such tournament. THIS IS AN OBLIGATION OF THE Post-Baseball Legion/Booster Group HOSTING TOURNAMENTS.

Rule 6.D

Dual Participation- Page 13-14

Rule 7

Program Sportsmanship-Conduct

All programs must remain in good standing with the North Dakota American Legion Baseball Committee. This includes adhering to all rules, policies, deadlines, and administrative requirements established by the Committee.

Any derogatory, disrespectful, or inappropriate actions—whether verbal, written, or electronic—directed toward the North Dakota American Legion Baseball Committee, its members, or its decisions may result in disciplinary action. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, warnings, probation, suspension of program privileges, or removal from participation in North Dakota American Legion Baseball. All disciplinary measures will be determined at the sole discretion of the North Dakota American Legion Baseball Committee.

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