

# 2016 CT American Legion Baseball Rules

(Final Rules as of March 30, 2016 11:00PM)

American Legion Baseball shall be played in accordance with rules adopted by the National Baseball Committee and Americanism Commission and Major League Baseball.

Changes to the Official MLB Rules may be made by are noted in Rule 1 of the American Legion Baseball rules. These rules generally pertain to matters of safety, equipment and insurance and are made with the welfare of the players in mind.

These rules may be further modified by the Connecticut Department (may be more restrictive) generally for regular season play only and cannot conflict with certain national rules. All national tournaments will follow rules established by The American Legion's National Americanism Commission.

All teams shall follow these rules with a few exceptions.

19 & Under American Legion Baseball Program (or Senior American Legion Baseball)

17 & Under American Legion Baseball Program (or Junior American Legion Baseball)

15 & Under American Legion Baseball Program (or Prep American Legion Baseball)

New rule changes for the 2016 season are **highlighted and underlined**.

## PLAYING REGULATIONS - RULE 1

### A. Bat Rule.

Each program will be required to vote each year by previous September 1st to determine its bat choice for the following regular season. A simple majority vote will decide whether the state will allow regular wood, wood composite or BBCOR approved metal bats. **For the 2016 season, for the first time, only regular wood bats will be allowed. If a player uses an illegal bat, both the player and his head coach will be ejected. Further discipline, if any, will be determined by the State Director or his designee.**

B. The Batter – see National Rule

C. Blood Rule – see National Rule

D. Catcher's Equipment – see National Rule

E. Coaches. - Only those coaches listed on the team's National Registration Form #1 are permitted on the playing field. No team can play a game without one of these approved coaches present on the field or in the dugout.

F. Courtesy Runners – see National Rule

G. Collisions – see National Rule

H. Designated Hitter (DH) Rule – For the 19U & 17U Divisions, Connecticut follows the National Rule, a player can only DH for the pitcher. For the 15U Division, a player can DH for any defensive player per the allowed national option.

I. Force-Play-Slide Rule. – see National Rule

J. First Aid Kit Rule. – see National Rule

K. Games – In addition to the National Rule:

1. No team shall be required to play more than two games in one day.
2. Games will only be played on July 4<sup>th</sup> if both teams agree.
3. No make-up games can be rescheduled as a doubleheader during the last weekend of the season unless postponed during the last week.
4. If a team plays in a tournament (or goes away on a trip) all missed games must be made up by five days after conclusion of the tournament or trip. Their zone schedule must reflect the rescheduling of these games.
5. The Baseball Committee must approve participation in tournaments during zone play. Additional practice games are encouraged. No team may reschedule a zone game (once the final zone schedule is provided to the State Director or once the season starts, whichever happens first) for any reason without the approval of the State Director or his designee.
6. Forfeitures - In case a visiting team fails to arrive within the designated time, the team on the field will win by forfeit after waiting fifteen (15) minutes beyond the time the game is scheduled to start. An appeal may be made to the zone chairman in the case of unforeseen circumstances such as an accident in route to the game. The home team must be ready to play at the scheduled game time without exception (no grace period). In the event of a double header and the traveling team forfeits the first game, the scheduled time for the next game will be 15 minutes after the completion of the first game. Example: A team is traveling for a double header for a 1pm game and does not have enough players to start the game. The game is officially over after the 15 minute grace period at 1:15pm. The next game now starts at 1:30pm and would be subject to a forfeit at 1:45PM). The home team again has no grace period and would forfeit the 2nd game at 1:15PM. In all forfeit situations, the umpire shall place the eligible team on the field, have the pitcher throw one pitch and then officially declare that team the winner. Any team that forfeits a game for not having 9 players eligible to start the game will be required to pay a \$100 “fine” to the opposing team. This fine is in addition to the home team’s responsibility to pay for the umpires.

If a team forfeits games on two separate days because of its inability to field nine eligible players at the start of a game the team will be disqualified and ineligible to participate in any further American Legion games that season. With this season ending situation all games played will stand and all subsequent games will result in losses and potential further discipline from the State Baseball Committee.

The State Committee is especially concerned that teams may use players known to be ineligible in order to avoid forfeitures of games due to lack of players. Because of ethical and liability issues, this behavior will lead to severe penalties – up to and including the removal of responsible coaches and/or entire teams.

If a disqualified team wants to return to American Legion play the next season it must pay a \$500 non-refundable penalty fee plus the regular registration fee. This fee must be paid at the State Meeting which they attend and are reinstated. Please note that this \$500 penalty is intended for teams requesting to return that have not substantially changed their leadership. The State Committee retains the right to waive this penalty if they decide that a substantially new leadership should not be responsible for mistakes made by the people previously in charge.

The zone chairman shall immediately notify the state director with the names of teams that forfeit games during the season.

When it is necessary to change a field for a scheduled game, the following applies:

- a) The visiting team manager shall be notified forty-eight (48 hours) before game time
- b) If the game must be postponed for weather related issues, or some other reason approved by the State Director or his designee, it shall be played depending upon field availability by one of the 2 teams on the next mutually open date (previous commitments to tournaments, trips, & reasonable end of the year school related functions are okay but non-zone games must be cancelled). No team will be required to have games scheduled on more than **5** days in a row (only **4** days in a row for 17 & Under Division and **3** days in a row for 15 & Under Division) or be scheduled to play more than 1 doubleheader in that time period. Teams may need to give up their home game to comply with this rule. Teams that do give up home games may switch a later away game to their home field. Games not made up on the next open date, as described above, will result in the game counting as a loss for both teams. The zone chairman should be consulted by the home team manager for approval of the schedule change.
- c) Please note that, unless otherwise noted by the State Director, teams do not have to cancel non-zone games played prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be in compliance with this make-up policy.

If a team drops out after April 15<sup>th</sup> but prior to the start of the season, they will be required to pay a \$250 non-refundable penalty fee. This fee must be paid at the State Meeting which they attend and are reinstated. As with the \$500 forfeit penalty, this penalty can be waived by the State Committee if the team's leadership substantially changes.

L. Helmets. – same as National Rule

M. Insurance Rule. – In addition to the National Rule:

1. All American Legion Baseball teams must purchase insurance from The American Legion's agent of record (S.A. Van Dyk, Inc.). Coverage must be purchased when registering through the National Online Registration Process prior to the team's first tryout, game, team activity, or February 15<sup>th</sup> – whichever comes first. Violation of this rule may result in the disqualification from any further competition.
2. Each coach, general manager, and other required volunteer must pay for and provide all requested information, so that a yearly background check, conducted by the nationally selected company, can be completed on them **prior to having any team related contact with any players.** Anyone failing this review will not be allowed to be part of any American Legion Baseball Program – absolutely no involvement. **No new coaches can be added or background checks requested after June 1<sup>st</sup> without the specific approval of the State Director or his designee.**

- N. Lightning Safety – same as National Rule
- O. National Senior Tournament Rules – same as National Rule
- P. On Deck Equipment. – same as National Rule.
- Q. Pitching Rule – In addition to the National Rule, in Connecticut no 19 & Under player may pitch more than 10 innings during any consecutive 4 day calendar period. 17 & Under players would be limited to 8 innings in 4 consecutive days, while for 15 & Under players it would be 7 innings in 5 days. All innings pitched in zone, non-zone and non-legion games are counted when calculating total innings. No 19 & Under player may make more than four appearances as pitcher during this period – with no more than 3 appearances for both the 17 & Under and 15 & Under players. **Game shall be forfeited if a player violates the previously mentioned pitching rule limitations only if the protest is filed with the umpire in chief before he leaves the playing field once the game is completed.** Please note that to comply with National Rules, once the **best 2 out of 3 Connecticut Department Championship begins on Friday, July 29, 2016**, 19 & Under players can pitch 12 innings in 3 consecutive days.

**In conjunction with USA Baseball, Major League Baseball has developed new “Pitch Smart” Guidelines, with the intent to limit overuse injuries. While the National American Legion decides how to implement these new standards, Connecticut is going to do the following:**

- 1. For the 2016 Season all teams, regardless of age level, will be required to data enter the pitch counts for each of their pitchers as part of entering their final scores for each of their games – both regular season, state tournament and non-zone. Teams will not be able to enter any scores or innings pitched without first entering these pitch counts. Any team not entering this information by Noon the day after their game will be disciplined as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Violation – written warning; 2<sup>nd</sup> Violation - \$100 fine paid by check given to Zone Chairman in person by the next day (forfeit game if not paid on time); 3<sup>rd</sup> & future violations – forfeit game(s).**
- 2. For the 2017 Season, in addition to data entering the pitch counts all teams, regardless of the age level, will be required to fully comply with the appropriate maximum pitch counts and required days of rest for both the Regular Season, State Tournament, and any out of season (Spring, Fall & Winter) programs. Prior to the 2017 season the state will develop an appropriate in-game recording process and penalties for any violation of these new safety standards. While the complete Pitch Smart Guidelines are posted on our State Website, please note the following highlights:**
  - 17 & 18 year old pitchers can only pitch a maximum of 105 pitches in one day. They would have to get 4 days rest if they throw more than 76 pitches.**
  - 13 to 16 year old pitchers can only pitch a maximum of 95 pitches in one day. They would have to get 4 days rest if they throw more than 66 pitches.**

R. Re-Entry Rule – In addition to National Rule:

1. While re-entry is not allowed for the 19U Division, it will be allowed for both the 17U & 15U Divisions in both the regular season and state tournaments.

S. Tobacco/Alcohol Rule – In addition to National Rule:

1. No tobacco is to be used in any form by players, managers, coaches and or umpires on the playing field. Failure to comply with this rule shall be suspension for that game plus the next 2 games (minor infraction). For this rule, the dugouts, batting cages, seating areas, refreshment stands, and other similar locations are considered part of the playing field.
2. No alcoholic beverages are to be sold or consumed at any ballpark during American Legion baseball games, and further, any agreement for the use of any facility for Department American Legion baseball must contain a "No Alcohol" beverage clause. Any player, coach, or team-affiliated member found drinking alcoholic beverages at the ballpark before, during or after a legion baseball game would be suspended for a minimum of 4 games (major infraction). Any additional penalty will be determined by the State Director or his designee. No advertisements for alcoholic beverages should appear on any uniform. In cases where a ballpark is used by more than just the American Legion team, these rules shall only apply to American Legion events (Legion teams should not be discouraged from attempting to gain use of minor league and major league facilities where possible – this rule is not intended to preclude such usage of facilities that sell alcohol at professional games).

T. Ten (10)-Run Rule. In addition to the National Rule:

1. All American Legion Regular Season and Tournament games shall use a 10-run rule after five innings for a 7 inning game and seven innings after a 9 inning game respectively, unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 4 ½ and 6 1/2 innings at which time that game will be halted.

Clarification – if the visiting team leads by 10 or more runs after 6 ½ innings in a 19U Game or 4 ½ innings in both 17U and 15U games, the home team must complete its turn at bat before the game can be ended by this rule.

U. Uniforms. – see National Rule

V. Baseballs – All teams in Connecticut must use the Rawlings CT – AL Baseball.

W. Suspended Games – In addition to the National Rule, regular season games will follow Pro Rules 4.12, with the following exception: all non-regulation games will be picked up from the point of stoppage. The following examples should clarify this rule:

1. any game cancelled prior to becoming a regulation game in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, will now be continued from the point it is stopped
2. once a game is a regulation game (home team winning after the visiting team has hit in the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning or either team winning after the home team has hit in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning), and weather or other conditions force the game to be stopped, it is over unless the visiting team ties or takes the lead in a subsequent inning and the home team doesn't have a chance to bat. In that case, it is a suspended game and must be continued from that point at a later time.

- X. Lineups – In addition to the National Rule, teams should list all eligible starters and substitutes on their lineup card prior to the start of the game. Players omitted from the lineup card who are listed on the official team roster – National Form 1 or State Team Pre-Roster that have eligibility can participate in the game without penalty to the team.
- Y. Umpires – In addition to the National Rule, all umpires are required to be members in good standing of the Connecticut State Board of Approved Baseball Umpires. This rule covers all regular season zone and non-zone games, regular season tournaments, and state and national tournament games played on our fields where the selection of umpires is under our teams or State Committee control, and all games played throughout the year (i.e. spring and fall).
- Z. Championship and Tiebreaker Formats – In addition to National Rules, a zone champion and final order of finish will be determined from regular season results – first by head to head record and **second by “CIAC like” # each team was given last season that was good for both the 2015 and 2016 seasons.** All zone positions must be determined by results of regular season games, for the 19 & Under American Legion zones by Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, the 17 & Under Legion games by Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, and the 15 & Under Legion games by **Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please note that to count in the standings, all 19 & Under games on the last day of the season must be completed by **8:30PM** and game results must be reported to both the Zone Chairman and the State Director immediately after the game. 19 & Under Sectional Tournament will start on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. The 17 & Under Modified Double Elimination Sectional Tournament will start on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup> and the 15 & Under Sectional Tournaments will start on **Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>** respectively.

## **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS - RULE 2**

In Connecticut, athletes playing high school baseball can't participate in any legion practices, tryouts or games from the time they play their first high school CIAC league game (**April 2nd for 2016**) until they are personally eliminated from the High School State Tournament.

**A. Player age – In addition to National Rule:**

19 & Under Legion Baseball Players Age. 19 & Under American Legion Baseball competition in **2016** is open only to players born on or after January 1, **1997**.

Clarification for 19 & Under Legion Baseball

Any player born in **1996** is not eligible to play American Legion Baseball.

17 & Under Legion Baseball Players Age: 17 & Under American Legion Baseball competition in **2016** is open only to players born on or after January 1, **1999**.

Clarification for 17 & Under Legion Baseball

Any player born in **1998** is not eligible to play 17 & Under American Legion Baseball.

15 & Under Legion Baseball Players Age. 15 & Under American Legion Baseball competition in **2016** is open only players born on or after January 1, **2001**.

Clarification for 15 & Under Legion Baseball

Any player born in **2000** is not eligible to play 15 & Under American Legion Baseball.

Since information on all players must be registered over the internet, as a result of Federal Laws pertaining to sharing information about young children over the internet, any player born in 2004 or after are not eligible to play American Legion Baseball in 2016.

- B. Player's Domicile – same as National Rule
- C. Professional Baseball Contract – same as National Rule
- D. Amateur Rule – same as National Rule
- E. Proof of Age – **In addition to the National Rule. If a player provided additional proof of his identification to the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles and received a driver's license that meets the requirements under the Federal Real ID Law (their license will have a gold star in the upper right hand corner, while everyone else's will be stamped "Not for Federal Identification), their license can be used as proof of age. The General Manager can provide a copy of this enhanced license to the Zone Chairman with all other documents – instead of their birth certificate. If the team makes the final 8 of the CT Department Super Regional State Tournament (as well as the national tournament), the player will have to present his original enhanced license for review by the state representative to play in the tournament.**

## **PLAYER RECRUITING PLAN "A" - RULE 3**

**Connecticut has chosen to use Player Recruiting Plan A. A player can only be waived to another adjacent team if the combined counted enrollment (high school 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> graders, both boys and girls) of the schools located in both their territories are below 5,000.**

- A. Zoning – same as National Rule
- B. Player Recruiting – In addition to the National Rule, the Connecticut Baseball Committee has adopted the following modifications:
  - 1. It is the policy of the Connecticut American Legion Baseball Program that waivers only be granted to eligible players who tryout and/or make themselves fully available to the team and are not selected for a particular team subject to the following clarifications:
    - a) A legion player must first tryout and make himself fully available for the team whose territory is closest to his parent's or court ordered legal guardian's home. If he is not selected for that first team, he can ask to be considered for the next nearest team to that home. This team may or may not require him to physically tryout. If not selected by this 2<sup>nd</sup> team, he would have the option to ask to play for the next nearest team. Again they may or may not require him to tryout. If he is not selected by this third team, then he will not be able to play American Legion Baseball for that season. This will be calculated by MapQuest Program (using shortest driving distance), as mandated by the National Rule 4 **subject to National Rules for waivers including the 5,000 maximum student count for the two affected teams. Please note that teams can take waived players from more than one other team in the same season, if the total applicable student population from all high schools located in those territories are below the 5,000 national maximum.**



- b) For Connecticut, we will compare the parent's address to the local town hall address for the town the team is named after (Bristol, Middletown, Torrington, etc...) – if the team is not named after just one town (Tri-Town, RCP, etc...), you will use the town hall address for the town where the team played a majority of its home games during the 2008 season. These addresses are included on our state website ([see link at "State Territory"](#)) and will be permanent unless changed by a majority vote of the State Baseball Committee.

All waiver requests will go directly to and must be approved by **a specific person designated by the State Director (for the 2016 season this is Chuck Berry).** **Please note that no waiver requests will be considered if given to Mr. Berry for the first time after June 18<sup>th</sup>.**

- c) The player, the **general manager** of new 19U legion team, and the **general manager** of all 19U team(s) that are waiving him must sign the waiver (National Form 76).
- d) All waivers are just good for one year. All players waived must try out for their hometown team again the following year. College students (non-high school students) can't be waived.

Players who graduated high school in 2015 shall play for the last American Legion team with which they played. Those players who graduated in 2015 shall not be eligible to be transferred (Forms 76 and 77). Players who graduated in 2015 but did not play American Legion Baseball in 2015 are not eligible unless their name appeared on a previously approved (during last 4 years) **17U or 19U** national team roster.

- e) The manager or coach must waive any player born in **1997** or **1998** that is not selected for their team and meets the criteria listed above. In situations not covered by the above rules contact the Assistant State Director for clarification and direction.
- f) New Programs – Players, **not in their final year of eligibility** previously rostered on a Legion team, who have been designated to a new team because of plan realignment, have a one time option to either participate with the new team or remain on the old team. The zone chairman shall notify affected players that they have this option. The player is required to **send a written declaration to the** Assistant State Director prior to the start of the season. This option decision will be in force for the player's remaining years of eligibility. If these players are subsequently waived they would return to the team originally chose at the end of each season.

## **PLAYER RECRUITING PLAN "B" - RULE 4**

Not applicable for CT American Legion Program



## **PROTESTS - RULE 5**

- A. Protest Procedures – see National Rule
- B. Written Proof – see National Rule
- C. Forfeitures – see National Rule
- D. Game Protest – see National Rule
- E. Appeals to National Headquarters – see National Rule

In addition to the National Rule, in case of a protest, the zone chairman should be notified immediately, followed by a written report delivered to the Zone Chairman within forty-eight hours of the end of the game being protested. A copy of this report shall be sent to the state director. Protests shall be delivered by hand, fax, e-mail, or certified mail. All protests must be accompanied by a certified check (delivered by hand to the zone chairman regardless of how the written report is submitted) in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) made payable to the Baseball Committee. If a protest is upheld the zone chairman will return the check to the protester. If a protest is denied, the zone chairman will deliver the check to the State Committee Treasurer. **The State Director or his designee, in conjunction with** the zone chairman shall decide all protests. When made aware of player eligibility infractions, protests regarding such issues need to be made within a reasonable time. All regular season protests must be made and decided prior to the official start of the State Tournament.

All protests will include: 1) Written report; 2) Names and addresses of both (all) umpires; 3) The umpires' written or oral report; & 4) a \$100 check.

Decisions regarding all protests will be summarized in a written report and given to the protesting team manager, the other affected team(s) and the Zone Chairman and State Director, if applicable.

## **TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION - RULE 6**

- A. Player and Team Registration – see National Rule
- B. National Online Registration – see National Rule
- C. National Form #2 – see National Rule
- D. Dual Participation – In addition to the National Rule, for Regular Season Games, beginning after they have attended their first zone game, but not later than June **25, 2016**, players will be ineligible to play in further regular season zone and non-zone games and the state tournament (all divisions), and must be immediately removed from their roster, if they miss more than 20% of their teams scheduled zone games for any of the reasons listed in the national rule – including playing baseball for another team, going to a baseball showcase,

etc... Teams will be required to keep track of this in their own manner and sign a statement prior to the beginning of the State Tournament attesting to the eligibility of their players to participate. This certification will be subject to protest by the other State Tournament teams. Nothing in this rule is intended to make someone ineligible for, among other things, missing games due to injury, illness, work, vacation, or playing another sport.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT PER NATIONAL RULES, ONCE OUR STATE TOURNAMENT HAS STARTED (WHICH INCLUDES ANY GAME AFTER THE REGULAR SEASON ENDS – I.E. OUR CURRENT STATE SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT), ANY PLAYER THAT PARTICIPATES IN ANY NON-APPROVED (PER NATIONAL RULES) BASEBALL ACTIVITY (FOR EXAMPLE PLAYING BASEBALL FOR ANOTHER TEAM, GOING TO A BASEBALL SHOWCASE, PARTICIPATING IN A COLLEGE BASEBALL CAMP OR TRYOUT, ETC...) WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO PLAY AGAIN FOR THE REST OF THE STATE, REGIONAL AND WORLD SERIES GAMES.**

- E. Players Per Team – see National Rule
- F. Non-American Legion Post Sponsorship – In addition to the National Rule please note that:
  - 1. An outside sponsored team is one that is not affiliated with any American Legion post. If selected to participate in the program, the outside sponsored team agrees to abide by all American Legion state and national baseball rules. The outside sponsored team also agrees to assume all financial responsibilities relative to the operation of American Legion Baseball including, but not limited to uniforms, baseballs, insurance and umpires. The admission of an outside sponsored team to the state program is always subject to the approval of the State Baseball Committee.
  - 2. Should an existing outside-sponsored team wish to affiliate with an American Legion post or merge with an existing post-sponsored team, such merger or affiliation must be approved and coordinated by the State Baseball Committee. In no case will an outside-sponsored team in good standing, be required to merge or affiliate with a post-sponsored team, be replaced by a newly formed post-sponsored team, or be taken over by a post. Teams wanting to merge must adhere to the rules governing Combinations – see Rule 7.
  - 3. For those teams that are post sponsored, the post is the controlling entity and is responsible for the team managers, coaches and other on-field personnel. For non-post sponsored teams, the program General Manager or controlling organization (if applicable) is responsible for the team managers, coaches and other on-field personnel. Posts are expected to not support another baseball organization in direct competition with a Connecticut American Legion Baseball Team.
- G. Double Rostering with another American Legion Teams – In addition to the National Rule, for the regular season, teams may double-roster as many age eligible players as they wish with another team within their Legion program but they still must be in compliance with roster maximum limits at each level. Players will be able to participate in two levels of the regular season and tournament subject to the following:
  - 1. A position player that plays in more than 50% of their 19 & Under zone games or pitcher who pitches more than 20 innings in 19 & Under zone games, will not be eligible to play in the 17 & Under or 15 & Under State Tournament.
  - 2. There will not be any similar restriction on playing time for a 17 & Under or 15 & Under player to play in the 19 & Under Tournament. If at any time during the regular season a double rostered player becomes ineligible for the 17 & Under or 15 & Under Tournaments (i.e. a pitcher who pitches more than 20 innings in 19 & Under zone games or a player who plays in more than 50% of their 19 & Under zone games), they would also immediately be ineligible to play (play in the field, pitch, bat, pinch run, etc...) in any more regular season 17 & Under or 15 & Under games.

3. Teams will be required to keep track of this in their own manner and sign a statement prior to the beginning of the State Tournament attesting to which of their double rostered players will be eligible to participate. This certification will be subject to protest by the other State Tournament teams.
4. In addition, if a player starts in more than one 19 & Under State Tournament Game they will no longer be eligible to play in either the rest of the 17 & Under or 15 & Under regular season or State Tournaments.
5. Please note that these same rules also apply to the 15 & Under Teams (if double rostered players play too much for either the 17 & Under or 19 & Under Teams, they will be ineligible to play any more for the 15 & Under Team, and if they play in more than one 17 & Under or 19 & Under State Tournament game they will no longer be eligible to play for the 15 & Under Team.

H. Required Paperwork – In addition to the National Rule:

- a. Signed Coaches Code of Ethics Form - Prior to the start of the season all **new** field coaches and managers must read the Coaches' Code of Ethics and the National Risk Management Policy and submit a signed acknowledgement of both to their Zone Chairman. Failure to adhere to this rule may make a team ineligible to participate in American Legion baseball for that season. Signed copies must be returned to the respective Zone Chairman before their first scheduled game.
- b. Pre-Season Rosters – **Instead of separate** Pre-Season Rosters, all teams must data enter their roster information (including name, DOB, high school graduation year, parent's address including home town) onto their state provided websites prior to playing their first zone game. **Zone Chairman or his designee will be required to periodically review these "Website Rosters" for compliance. Any team not complying with this rule will be disciplined as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Violation – written warning; 2<sup>nd</sup> Violation - \$100 fine paid by check given to Zone Chairman in person by the next day (forfeit game if not paid on time); 3<sup>rd</sup> & future violations – forfeit game(s). In addition, any team playing someone not listed on their Website Roster, will forfeit that game for using an ineligible player.**
- c. Teams must register, using the National Website, paying all State and National Registration Fees, purchasing insurance and providing required general information by February 15<sup>th</sup>. The National Website can be reached at <http://baseball.legion.org/> Any team that does not meet the February 15th deadline will be charged a minimum \$100 late penalty. This includes the completion of background checks for all coaches, general managers and other required volunteers) or prior to their first tryout or practice whichever happens first and complete their Team and Coach Roster on the National Website (old Form 1) by **June 25, 2016. In addition, teams must still provide copies of birth certificates, National Form 1 (2 copies), National Form 2 (2 copies), National Form 76, signed Coaches Code of Ethics Form, and new Website Roster to their zone chairman by June 23, 2016.** The Roster is limited to eighteen (18) players. (For all Teams. **In addition, each Zone Chairman will be required to compare these Website Rosters with the National Form 1's. Teams will be required to make any changes necessary to insure that their rosters on their State Website is 100% correct. This all must be completed before June 25, 2016.**

- d. Upon submission of rosters to the zone chairmen (no later than Thursday, June **23, 2016**), each zone chairman shall inspect and validate the submitted rosters from his zone. Teams failing to submit their rosters by June **23, 2016** will be declared ineligible for state competition, in which case they would forfeit all their remaining zone games.

Important information to be included in submitted papers: home address of player's parents (Forms #1 and #2); and players' signatures in proper place (Form #2). Player signatures on Form #2 must be the same name as on the birth certificate including full-signed middle name. Parent or guardian to sign the Emergency Information Form 2.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP & CONDUCT - RULE 7**

- A. Conduct – see National Rule
- B. Heckling – see National Rule
- C. Sportsmanship – see National Rule
- D. Reinstatement – see National Rule
- E. Ejection from the Ballpark – In addition to the National Rule, **Umpires may restrict the offender (player or coach) to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game, if the umpire judges the offenders actions to be minor in nature. Players restricted to the bench/dugout shall remain in the dugout under the supervision of team coaches. Coaches restricted to the dugout/bench may only leave the dugout/bench to attend to a player who becomes ill or injured. Any restricted player or coach shall be ejected for further misconduct.**
- F. Conduct – In addition to the National Rule, any manager, coach, player, or team parent, team family member, or anyone else involved in an American Legion Baseball game or program, who in the opinion of the State Director or his representative, conducts himself in an unsportsmanlike manner, or in a manner that discredits the American Legion Program, may be removed from further participation by the Department Baseball Committee. The Baseball Committee's Decision will be final.

Please note that inappropriate comments in any social media or print/audio "outlet" will result in case specific disciplinary penalties up to and including permanent ineligibility. Any team that has any combination of more than four players, coaches or team officials **ejected from** games during the same regular season that team may be made ineligible for participating in that season's State Tournament by the State Committee. Any team made ineligible under this rule may be given the opportunity to appeal this decision to the State Director or his designee.

- G. Disciplinary Policy – In addition to the National Rule, CT American Legion Program has adopted the following Disciplinary Action Policy. The provisions of this policy shall be in effect from one hour prior to the scheduled start of the game, throughout the game, and one hour after the completion, suspension or termination of the game.

Only the head coach (or his assistant, designated before the game with the right to replace him), will be allowed to leave his normal position to argue any calls or decisions made by the umpires. Penalty is the offending coach or team official will be ejected from the game and will be subject to the further penalties listed below. Umpires may, at their discretion, warn the coach for their first offense, especially early in the season. **Please note that no coach is allowed to argue balls and strikes. The penalty would be restriction or ejection to the dugout at the sole discretion of the umpires.**

1. MAJOR INFRACTION shall include, but not be limited to:
  - a. Non-consensual or reckless physical contact or attempting to make physical contact or any threat of physical intimidation or harm to include pushing, shoving, bumping, kicking, intentionally spitting, throwing at or attempting to make physical contact with an umpire or opposing player or fan.
  - b. Spitting, throwing or kicking anything at an umpire or any game participant.
  - c. Participating in a physical altercation.
  - d. Conduct otherwise considered a minor infraction that, by its nature, is judged to have included intent to incite a major infraction. This rule is designed to prevent "baiting".
2. MINOR INFRACTION shall include but not be limited to:
  - a. Undue use of profanity towards any game participant
  - b. Verbal abuse of umpires or any game participant or intentionally throwing equipment
  - c. Malicious contact (as defined in National Rule 1.E.2. Clarification) will be judged case by case by the umpires as to whether a MAJOR or MINOR infraction is to be assigned.
  - d. Any coach who criticizes an umpire in a public forum (defined as comments or quotes in the media and public meetings. The individual name of an umpire does not have to be included for this penalty to be imposed).
  - e. Any other conduct deemed by the umpire to be unsportsmanlike and warranting this penalty.
3. Punishment – Any player, coach, manager or bench personnel found guilty of a MAJOR infraction will be suspended for a minimum of four games and the suspension could be season-ending depending on the circumstance. If the person incurs a second major infraction he shall be suspended for the remainder of the season. Any player, coach, manager or bench personnel found guilty of one MINOR infraction will be suspended for a minimum of two games. The 2<sup>nd</sup> minor infraction will result in a suspension of a minimum of 3 games. If he receives a third minor infraction, he shall be suspended for the remainder of the season. A player ejected out at one level of play, can't play for any other level of play until their penalty is served at the level he was ejected without the approval of the State Director or his designee. Any player suspended for the remainder of the season at one age level is also ineligible at the other age level. Please note that only the State Director, or is designee, has the authority to impose any punishment beyond these stated penalties.
4. Implementation of the Suspension - Any player, coach or manager thrown out of a Zone game will sit out the next Zone or Tournament games as punishment. If a player, coach or manager is thrown out of a regularly scheduled exhibition game, he will sit out the next regularly scheduled exhibition game. If the expelled player, coach or manager's team has no exhibition games left on their schedule, he will sit out the next Zone games, tourney games or first zone games of next year, whatever comes first. Coaches of both teams in the game involving the expulsion must notify the Zone Chairman immediately after the game. Suspensions for either major or minor infractions will continue into the next season if the suspensions cannot be completed during the regular season or state tournament.

5. For clarification, the suspended individual is not allowed to:
  - a. Communicate with any team personnel or umpires at the site of competition;
  - b. Take part in any pre-game activities at the site of competition; or
  - c. Be in the stadium, on the field, or within eyesight of the field once pre-game activities have started.
  
6. Appeal Process - Punishments can be appealed to the State Director, or his designee, if first supported by the appropriate Zone Chairman. Affected players and coaches must sit out their next game(s) until a final decision can be made. The State Director will make a decision working through the Zone Chairman. Any decision by the State Director, including letting the original punishment stand because the appropriate Zone Chairman did not support a further review, is final. All appeals must be made within 24-hours of the incident. No appeals will be accepted or heard after the 24-hour window.

For all appeals, the zone chairman, as well as a liaison from the umpire's board, will get proper information concerning the incident. The umpire(s) involved in the game with the incident should notify the umpire liaison immediately **(no later than noon the following day)** pertaining to the incident. The umpire liaison will contact the zone chairman, who, if they agree with the appeal, will forward all information to the state director who will hear and make a ruling on the appeal.
  
7. Ejection from the Ballgame - Any coach, manager, or team official ejected by the umpire must leave the field and dugout area immediately and is not allowed to communicate with team members or the umpires. A player who has just been ejected must continue to be supervised by a coach. The umpire is required to inform the Head Coach of the ejection and it is then the coach's prerogative to: (a) keep him on the bench or (b) send him (under constant supervision by another coach) to another location. If the player continues to be a problem after being ejected the Head Coach will be told to either control his player(s) or forfeit the game. Whenever an ejection occurs, the umpires are required to give the Zone Chairman and State Director a completed Ejection Report, which is available on our State Baseball Website ([www.ctlegionball.com](http://www.ctlegionball.com)), **by noon the following day.**

## **DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION - RULE 8**

- A. Department Rules and Regulations – see National Rule
- B. Department Rulings – see National Rule
- C. National Player Eligibility Rule Interpretations – see National Rule

In addition to the National Rule, Connecticut American Legion baseball is governed by the Connecticut American Legion Committee, and shall be comprised of:

1. Nine commissioners, each of who will be accorded one vote in matters brought before the committee. Commissioners are appointed per D. below.
2. The zone and assistant zone chairmen (two per zone, as designated per F. below) due to State American Legion Rules. Zone chairmen and assistant zone chairman are not accorded a formal vote in Committee matters, but act as important advisory members of the Committee.
3. A Webmaster and Umpire Liaison/Rules Interpreter and anyone else appointed by the State Director, who are not accorded a vote in Committee matters.
4. State Baseball Commissioners - The American Legion State Commander will annually appoint the nine Baseball Committee Commissioners from the state at-large. The State Legion Commander will designate one of the commissioners as director. Baseball Committee Meetings will be governed by Roberts Rules of Order. **A simple majority (five commissioners) are necessary to hold an official meeting.**
5. Zones
  - a. The areas from which leagues are established will be known as zones. These zones are herewith designated subject to approval of the Department Baseball Committee.
  - b. A minimum of eight (8) teams (five for 17 & Under and 15 & Under) will be required to constitute a zone at the beginning of any season, however, recommended zone size will be **9-10** teams. The State Committee may allow a zone to start the particular season with less than the required number of teams. If sufficient additional teams do not register the following year, the State Committee may need to move a team(s) from an adjacent zone. For **2016**, there will be eight zones for the 19 & Under Division. The Baseball Committee may change the zones or transfer teams, as it deems necessary for good of the state baseball program. If in any particular year, one of our 8 junior zones has less than the required minimum number of junior teams, than the State Committee will consider moving or combining the required number of teams from an adjacent zone for that one season, as long as this change does not put that second zone under the required number of teams.
  - c. All team applications to participate in the American Legion baseball program, and assignment of teams to zones, are subject each year to the approval/review of the Baseball Committee. The Committee's decision in all such matters shall be final.
  - d. All zone competition will be governed by National American Legion Baseball rules ([http://www.baseball.legion.org/alb\\_rules.htm](http://www.baseball.legion.org/alb_rules.htm)) and by these state American Legion Baseball rules, as amended from time to time.
  - e. Zone Chairmen  
The state director of the Baseball Committee appoints the zone chairmen and assistant zone chairman  
Each zone chairman (and assistant zone chairman in their absence) shall be in charge of games that occur within his zone.



All zone issues will be referred to the zone chairman unless he disqualifies himself. In this event the issue will be referred to state director for a ruling or decision.

The zone chairman will notify the state director if any team fails to complete its schedule.

## **SENIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS - RULE 9**

- A. National Tournament Registration – see National Rule
- B. National Competition – see National Rule
- C. National Tournament Supervision – see National Rule
- D. National Tournament Player Eligibility Protest – see National Rule
- E. National Tournament Play – see National Rule
- F. Regional Tournament Host – see National Rule
- G. Tournament Photographs – see National Rule
- H. Department Championship Play – see National Rule
- I. Artificial Noisemakers Prohibited – see National Rule
- J. Suspended Games – see national Rule
- K. Minimum Active Players – see National Rule

## **NATIONAL BASEBALL APPEALS BOARD - RULE 10**

- A. National Appeals Board – see National Rule
- B. Time Limit – see National Rule
- C. Filing an Appeal – see National Rule
- D. Final Authority – see National Rule
- E. Approved Interpretations – see National Rule
- F. Appeal Procedure – see National Rule

# **CONNECTICUT STATE TOURNAMENTS**

## **(HIGHLIGHTS) - RULE 11**

19 & Under Tournament:

40 teams total qualify (20 from the Northern 4 zones and another 20 from the Southern 4 zones) – top 5 from each zone regardless of record. **However, please note that zones with 8 or less teams could get less than 5 teams and zones with 11 or more teams could get more than 5 teams.**

**For the 2016 Season the following number of 19U teams will qualify from each zone:**

**Northern Division – While our goal is for 20 teams to qualify for the State Tournament, if either/both Bristol and South Windsor do not finish in the top 5 in their zones, per National Rules they would be added to the tournament and automatically ranked as the 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> team. In this case they would have a Play-In Game with the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> ranked team as necessary.**

**Zone 1 – 5 of their 9 teams**

**Zone 6 – 5 of their 10 teams**

**Zone 7 – 5 of their 9 teams**

**Zone 8 – 5 of their 9 teams**

**Southern Division – While our goal is for 20 teams to qualify for the State Tournament, if Middletown, one of the hosts of the State Tournament qualifies for the tournament as one of the top 4 teams from Zone 3, then only 19 teams will qualify for the State Tournament & the best 2<sup>nd</sup> place team will receive a bye in the 1<sup>st</sup> round. However, if Middletown does not finish in the top 4 in Zone 3, per National Rules they would be added to the tournament and automatically ranked as the 20<sup>th</sup> team.**

**Zone 2 – 5 of their 10 teams**

**Zone 3 – 4 of their 7 teams**

**Zone 4 – 5 of their 10 teams**

**Zone 5 – 5 of their 10 teams**

**The regular season will end on Friday, July 15, 2016. The only games that should be played on the 15<sup>th</sup> are games that get rained out on the 14<sup>th</sup>. To count in the standings all games played on the Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> must be completed by 8:30PM unless otherwise authorized by the State Director or his designee.** 32 of these teams would play in the single elimination **Connecticut Post Season Department Sectional Tournament** beginning on Saturday, **July 16, 2016** at the higher seeded teams' fields. The 8 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams would be ranked 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, with the remaining teams ranked by winning percentage. The final team standings will not be changed so that teams in the same zone do not play each other. Similar to the CIAC, ties will be broken first by head to head and then by the higher pre-selected number (numbers that were drawn by each team at the 2015 Coaches & GM's Training Session). The 8 Zone Champions would play the 8 survivors in a best 2 out of 3 **Connecticut Post Season Department Regional Tournament** starting on Wednesday, July **20th** at the Zone Champions Field.

The 4 survivors from the Northern Division would go to South Windsor and the 4 from the Southern Division would go to Middletown and play a double elimination **Connecticut Post Season Department Super Regional Tournament** the same as last season. These 4 teams would be reseeded at the beginning of this part of the tournament, which will run from Saturday, July **23rd** – Wednesday, July **27th**. The champion teams from both sites would play a best 2 out of 3 **Connecticut Department Championship** in Middletown beginning on Friday, July **29, 2016**.

**\*\*\* Please note that all Connecticut Post Season Tournament Games\*\*\* (all games prior to the Connecticut Department Championship best 2 out of 3 series beginning on Friday, July 29th) will now be 7 inning games and will follow the more restrictive Connecticut regular season pitching rules. In addition, per National Rules the two hosts of our 19U State Tournament (Middletown & South Windsor) and the host of the 19U Regional Tournament (Bristol) automatically qualify and must play in the State Tournament. If anyone of these 3 teams do not otherwise qualify, they would be added as a 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> team and would be required to play in a play-in game prior to the start of the tournament.**

#### 17 & Under Tournament:

No more than 32 teams will qualify (up to 16 from the Northern 4 zones and another 16 from the Southern 4 zones) depending upon the number of teams registered. 3-6 teams will qualify from each zone (exact number to be decided by State Committee prior to the start of the regular season).

**For the 2016 Season the following number of 17U teams will qualify from each zone:**

**While our goal is for 16 teams to qualify for the State Tournament from each division, the large range of the number of teams in each of the 7 zones makes this inequitable. In addition to the 31 qualifying teams listed below, the highest ranked**

**4<sup>th</sup> place team from Zone 5 or Zone 6 will be added as the 32<sup>nd</sup> team in the tournament – please note that once in the tournament, this team will be ranked based upon their winning percentage. In addition, because the number of qualifying teams will be unequal between the two divisions, one or two teams from Zone 3 in the Southern Division will need to be moved to play in the Northern Division State Tournament. If one team must move (i.e. the 4<sup>th</sup> place team from Zone 6 was added to the tournament as the 32<sup>nd</sup> team), then the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team from Zone 3 would be moved to the Northern Division. If two team must move (i.e. the 4<sup>th</sup> place team from Zone 5 was added to the tournament as the 32<sup>nd</sup> team), then both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place teams from Zone 3 would be moved to the Northern Division. Please note that Meriden, as the site of the Southern Final 4, would not be moved.**

**Northern Division:**

**Zone 6 – 3 of their 6 teams**

**Zone 8 – 5 of their 8 teams**

**Zone 17 – 6 of their 9 teams**

**Southern Division:**

**Zone 2 – 4 of their 7 teams**

**Zone 3 – 4 of their 7 teams**

**Zone 4 – 6 of their 9 teams**

**Zone 5 – 3 of their 6 teams**

The regular season will end on Saturday, July **16, 2016**. The modified double elimination Sectional Tournament (**8 groups of 4 teams**) would begin on Monday, July **18, 2016** at the higher seeded teams' fields. The 7 Zone Champions would be ranked 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, the 7 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> and the remaining teams by winning percentage. Once only 8 teams are left, the tournament will be single elimination with the 4 northern teams going to Windsor Locks and the 4 southern teams going to Meriden.

The Championship Game will be played in Middletown on either Saturday, **July 30th or Sunday, July 31st**.

15 & Under Tournament:

The exact number of teams that qualify for this tournament will be decided by State Committee prior to the start of the regular season.

**For the 2016 Season the following number of 15U teams will qualify from each zone:**

**Unlike the previous 2 seasons when all of these teams participated in the State Tournament, this season only the best 16 will qualify.**

**Central Division – 6 of their 10 teams**

**Northern Division – 6 of their 9 teams**

**Southern Division – 4 of their 6 teams**

**Which teams, if any, they will need to be moved from one division to another to provide balance and limit travel, will be determined by the State Committee prior to the start of the regular season.**

**The regular season will end on Friday, July 22, 2016. The single elimination Sectional Tournament would begin on Sunday, July 24, 2016** at the higher seeded teams' fields. The Zone Champions and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams would be ranked at the top.

The Championship Game will be played in Middletown on Sunday, **July 31st.**

## **CONNECTICUT FALL BASEBALL - RULE 12**

Any Fall Baseball played using either the American Legion name or equipment (for example website) will be governed by our State Baseball Committee or its appointed representatives. All the adopted State and National Rules will be in effect with only the following major exceptions:

- 1) Rule 1 Playing Regulations – Forfeits. Penalties do not apply.
- 2) Rule 1 Playing Regulations – Suspended Games does not apply. All games count as long as both teams have had a chance to bat at least once.
- 3) Rule 2 Player Eligibility Requirements. Must be age eligible for 2017 summer season to play in the fall in 2016, since this season is supposed to be part of the tryout process for the following year.
- 4) Rule 6 Team and Player Certification. Dual Participation limitations do not apply.
- 5) Rule 6 Team & Player Certification – Double Rostering limitation does not apply.
- 6) Rule 7 Sportsmanship & Conduct – Implementation of Suspension. Any remaining penalties from the fall will not roll over to the following summer unless the State Committee decides that their nature rises to the level where an exception needs to be made.

## **CONNECTICUT TERRITORIAL ASSIGNMENTS - RULE 13**

**Rules for any requested team combinations, mergers, partial territory acquisitions, etc... and any requested change in zone participation, to be effective for the 2017 season, are currently being finalized and will be included in these rules prior to the start of the season.**

## **CONNECTICUT ELITE FALL COLLEGE SHOWCASE TEAM - RULE 14**

**We will be sponsoring a statewide Elite Fall College Showcase Team that will play in front of college coaches against similar teams from Massachusetts, New Hampshire & Rhode Island and Junior College Teams. Please see our website for more details including Player Nomination Form, contact names and phone numbers, and general team information.**