

# **2013 CT American Legion Baseball Rules**

(Updated Rules as of March 16, 2013)

American Legion Baseball (both Junior and Senior Legion Teams) shall be played in accordance with rules adopted by the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion and as authorized by the Commissioner of Major League Baseball.

Changes to the Official Baseball Rules may be made by the National Americanism Commission and 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) for regular season play only and cannot conflict with national rules. All national tournaments will follow rules established by The American Legion's National Americanism Commission.

Both Junior and Senior teams shall follow these rules with a few exceptions for Junior Legion Baseball, which shall be noted.

Senior American Legion Baseball shall be a 19 and under program.

Junior American Legion Baseball shall be a 17 and under program.

New rule changes for the **2013** season are 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. In any season when 60% of the programs vote to use wood bats for the regular season, all regular season and the entire state tournament for that season will use only wood bats. If less than 60% of the programs vote for wood then metal bats will be allowed for both the regular season and the State Tournament. Our definition of wood bats will include all those regular wood bats that meet Major League Baseball specifications and BBCOR approved composite wood bats. To review the most current list of approved composite wood bats, please Google **Washington State University, then NCAA Approved Bats**. Any questions concerning whether or not a composite wood bat is legal should be addressed to the Connecticut State Director. Please note that any material or substance, unless it is considered dangerous by the umpire, whose purpose is to improve the grip (i.e. adhesive tape, pine tar, etc...), can be added to the first 18 inches of the bat measured from the handle.

**Please note that for the 2013 season over 75% of the programs voted for wood, all regular season and state tournament games will use only wood bats.**

B. Blood Rule. – (Same as National Rule 1 B)

C. Catcher's Equipment. – (Same as National Rule 1)

- D. Coaches. - Only those players and coaches listed on the team's National Registration Form #1 or those approved by the Zone Chairman and/or the State Director are permitted on the coaching lines. No team can play a game without one of these coaches present on the field or in the dugout.
- E. Collision Rule. – (Same as National Rule 1 F)
- F. Designated Hitter Rule. – (Same as National Rule 1 G)
- G. Force-Play-Slide Rule. – (Same as National Rule 1 H)
- H. First Aid Kit Rule. – (Same as National Rule 1 I)
- I. Games
  - 1. No team shall be required to play more than two games in one day. **Games can only be played on July 4<sup>th</sup> if both teams agree.**
  - 2. Twilight games shall be seven (7) innings. Starting time of twilight games on weekdays shall not be later than 6 PM on unlighted fields. Starting times may be changed only with prior agreement by both team managers and the zone chairman.
  - 3. Saturday, Sunday and holiday games played under the lights may be seven (7) or nine (9) innings at the discretion of the zone teams. Doubleheaders should be seven (7) inning games.
  - 4. No make-up games can be rescheduled as a doubleheader during the last weekend of the season unless postponed during the last week. Each zone will determine a make-up day. If a team plays in a tournament (or goes away on a trip) all missed games must be made up by eight days after conclusion of the tournament trip. Their zone schedule must reflect the rescheduling of these games. The zone chairman must be notified if any scheduling problems occur. Failure to comply with the above rules will result in a forfeit by one or both teams.
  - 5. Non-Legion Endorsed Games and Tournaments - The Baseball Committee must approve participation in Legion tournaments during zone play. Practice games, however, 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 Baseball Committee. All teams playing in tournaments must abide by the rescheduling rule. Any team that is not eligible to play in the state tournament may compete in a non American Legion tournament once their season is over.
  - 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 (and not unreasonably withheld) in the case of unforeseen circumstances such as an accident in route to the game, unusually heavy traffic, or bad directions to the home field. The home team must be ready to play at the scheduled time without exception. The home team has no such grace period and would forfeit the game if they are unable to field 9

players at the time the game is scheduled to start. 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 second 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 to participate in any further American Legion games. With this season ending situation all games played will stand and all subsequent games will result in losses and further discipline from the State Baseball Committee.

The Committee may also elect to suspend the team's for the next season or permanently depending on the severity of the issue. The Committee may use progressive discipline in order to get the desired change in behavior – possible options include suspending or removing coaches, making a team ineligible for the State Tournament, etc... Among other things, while the committee is concerned about the use of ineligible players, the 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, as specified in the previous paragraph. If the presence of an ineligible player determines whether a team can field nine players for a game (see previous paragraph), the subsequent forfeiture of those played game(s) upon discovery of the ineligibility of that player will first be evaluated in accordance with the previous paragraph, and not only the played games will be forfeited, but the team may be disqualified from further play for the season. 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.

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

- a. When it is necessary to change a field for a scheduled game, the following applies:
  1. The visiting team manager shall be notified forty-eight (48 hours) before game time
  2. If the game must be postponed, 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 6 days in a row or be scheduled to play more than 1 doubleheader in that 6 day period. The home team would still be responsible for paying for the umpires. 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 forfeit for both teams.

3. The zone chairman should be consulted by the home team manager for approval of the schedule change.
- J. Helmets. – (Same as National Rule 1 K)
- K. Insurance Rule. – (Same as National Rule 1 L). Every (both Junior and Senior) American Legion Baseball teams must purchase both group liability and accident insurance from The American Legion's agent of record (S.A. Van Dyk, Inc.). Coverage must be purchased when registering with the Department Baseball Committee through the new National Online Registration Process prior to the team's first tryout, game, team activity, or March 15<sup>th</sup> – whichever comes first. Proof of such coverage must be submitted to the Department Baseball Committee at the time of registration. Violation of this rule will result in the disqualification from any further competition.

**In addition starting with the 2013 season, 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 by the nationally required deadline. Anyone failing this review will not be allowed to be part of any American Legion Baseball Program.**

- L. National Senior Tournament Rules.
- M. On Deck Equipment. – (Same as National Rule 1 M).
- N. Batting Practice – Appropriate safety screens (for example, L-Screens) are required.
- O. Pitching – Refer to National Rule 1 O) Senior Legion – No player may pitch more than 12 innings during any consecutive three-day calendar period. All Jr and Sr Legion innings and all innings pitched in non-legion games are counted when calculating total innings. No player may make more than four appearances as pitcher during this period. Junior Legion – No player may pitch more than a total of 10 innings during any consecutive three-day period. No player may make more than three appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period. Penalty for both Senior and Junior: Game shall be forfeited if protest is filed with the umpire in chief before the last out of the game. Protests involving playing ineligible players during regular season games, including pitchers, must be filed when the team finds out about the infraction, must be in a timely manner from the time of the alleged infraction, and must be before midnight on the last day to play regularly scheduled games.

Please note that even though legal by national rules (12 innings in 3 days for senior players and 10 innings in 3 days for junior players), the Connecticut State Baseball Committee asks all its coaches to use proper discretion to help limit any overuse injuries by its pitchers. **We recommend but can not mandate the following limits – 10 innings in 4 days for senior players and 8 innings in 4 days for junior players.**

Clarification – Visits to the Pitchers Mound. Any pitcher may be removed from the mound as pitcher and remain in the game at another defensive position. However, if that player is reinserted as pitcher that same inning and is removed again that same inning, he must leave the game.

- O. Tobacco/Alcohol Rule. – 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, and refreshment stands are considered part of the playing field.

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. 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).

- P. Ten (10)-Run Rule. All Senior American Legion **Regular Season and** Tournament **games** shall use a 10-run rule after **five and** seven innings **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.

- a. Junior Legion Ten (10) Run Rule. All Junior American Legion **Regular Season and** Tournament **games** shall use a 10-run rule after five innings, unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 4 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 Senior Legion game or 4 ½ innings in a Junior Legion game, the home team must complete its turn at bat before the game can be ended by this rule.

- Q. Uniforms. – (Same as National Rule 1S)

- R. Baseballs – All teams must use Rawlings CT-AL baseball

- S. Suspended Games - 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:

- a. 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
- b. 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.

- T. Lineups – 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 that have eligibility can participate in the game without penalty to the team.

- u. Umpires – all umpires are required to be members in good standing of the Connecticut State Board of Approved Baseball Umpires.

- v. Championship and Tiebreaker Formats – (CT Adopted) - A zone champion and final order of finish will be determined from regular season results – first by head to head record, second by record against the next highest ranked teams, and lastly by coin flip. All zone positions must be determined by results of regular season games, for the Senior Legion zones by Thursday, July **18, 2013** and the Junior Legion zones by Monday, July **22, 2013**. Please note that to count in the standings, all senior games on Thursday, July **18, 2013** must start at or prior to 6PM and game results must be reported to both the Zone Chairman and the State Director by **9:30PM** or immediately after the game, whichever is earlier. **Senior Sectional Tournament** will start on Saturday, July **20th** and the **Junior Sectional Tournament** will start on Saturday, July **27<sup>th</sup>**.

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS - RULE 2

- A. Senior Legion Baseball Players Age. Senior American Legion Baseball competition in **2013** is open only to players born on or after January 1, **1994**.

Clarification for Senior Legion Baseball

Any player born in **1993** is not eligible to play American Legion Baseball.

Junior Legion Baseball Players Age: Junior American Legion Baseball competition in **2013** is open only to players born on or after January 1, **1996**. Junior Legion Baseball shall be limited to ages 17 and under.

Clarification for Junior Legion Baseball

Any player born in **1995** is not eligible to play Junior 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 **2001** or after are not eligible to play American Legion Baseball in **2013**.

- B. Player's Domicile – (Refer to National Rule 2 B)
- C. Professional Baseball Contract – (Refer to National Rule 2 C)
- D. Amateur Rule – (Refer to National Rule 2 D)
- E. Birth Certificates – (Refer to National Rule 2 E)

## PLAYER RECRUITING PLAN "A" - RULE 3

The Plan A National Recruiting Rule governs all American Legion Baseball in Connecticut. – (Refer to National Rule 3 in the American Legion Baseball National Rule Book. In addition, the Connecticut Baseball Committee has adopted the following modifications to the National Rule:

- A. 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:

- B. A legion player may be waived to another team within his state zone or to an adjacent zone only if **the adjacent** zones enrollment average is 2,500 or less.
- C. 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.

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 website and will be permanent unless changed by a majority vote of the State Baseball Committee.

**Starting with the 2013 season, all waiver requests will go directly to and must be approved by the Assistant State Director.**

- D. The player, the manager of new senior legion team, and the manager of all senior legion team(s) that are **waiving** him must sign the waiver (National Form 76).
- E. 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 not be waived. All releases signed and approved prior to the end of the 2011 regular season will fall under the prior national rules and are final for that player's senior legion career.

Returning age eligible college players (non-high school students) are permitted to return to the team they played for in **2012**. These players must have appeared on the **2012** roster. Returning college players are not eligible for **waiver**. (A player who graduated in **2012** must return and play for their previous team; **2012** graduated players are not eligible to play for any other American Legion team).

- F. Senior legion team may accept new waived players from only 1 team territory each year.
- G. The manager or coach must waive any player born in **1994** or **1995** 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.
- H. New Programs - Players 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 fill out an Option Release Form (obtained from the **Assistant** State Director via the Zone Chairman) and return it 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.

- I. Absence of a Junior Team in a Player's Home Senior Territory (Applies for the **2013** Season) – Players who are eligible to play in a town/program that only has a Senior Program, (no Junior Program) can tryout for the Junior team whose border is closest to their parent's home. (See Rule A.2. above for further explanation about how this is determined). If this junior team cannot select this player because they can only select players from one other town/program in the same year due to National/State enrollment rules, or if they will not select players from another town/program, player can tryout for the next junior team closest to his player's parents' home. If player is cut, they **would follow the same rules as apply to Senior Waivers (please see previous explanation).**

## PLAYER RECRUITING PLAN "B" - RULE 4

Not applicable for CT American Legion Program

## PROTESTS - RULE 5

Protests shall be subject to National Rule #6 "Protests." In case of a protest, the zone chairman should be notified immediately, followed by a written report on Form #4 (available on the state website <http://www.ctalbb.com>) delivered to the Zone Chairman within forty-eight hours of the end of the game being protested. A copy of Form #4 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 Form #4 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 for deposit. The zone chairman shall decide all protests unless he disqualifies himself, in which case the State Director shall make the decision. Any team adversely affected by a protest can appeal any decision made by the Zone Chairman to the State Director or his designee. 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. Completely filled out Form #4
2. Names and addresses of both (all) umpires indicated on Form #4
3. The umpires' written or oral report appended to Form #4
4. A \$100 check

Decisions regarding all protests resolved by the zone chairman shall be summarized in a written report from the zone chairman to the protesting team manager, with a copy to the state Director.



## TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION - RULE 6

Clarification of National Rule 6D (Dual Participation for Regular Season Games) – Beginning after they have attended their first zone game, but not later than June **17, 2013**, players will be ineligible to play in further regular season zone and non-zone games and the state tournament (both senior and junior divisions), and must be immediately removed from their roster, if they miss more than 20% of their junior and senior 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, or vacation.

**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 WILL BE INELIGIBLE FOR THE REST OF THE STATE, REGIONAL AND WORLD SERIES GAMES. ANY TEAM PLAYING ONE OF THESE INELIGIBLE PLAYERS WILL, AT A MINIMUM, FORFEIT THAT GAME FOR USING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER.**

- A.** Signed Coaches Code of Ethics Form - Prior to the start of the season all field coaches and managers must read the Coaches' Code of Ethics and submit a signed acknowledgement team copy 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 – All teams are required to complete a pre-season roster form prior to their first regularly scheduled game. This state generated form includes DOB, school and parent's home address of all team members. The form must be returned to the respective zone chairman before the first scheduled game. A copy of this form must also be presented to the opposing team before each game prior to June **17, 2013**. After this date teams will have finalized their team roster on National Form #1. Failure to complete a pre-season roster and failure to present it to opposing teams before submission of the final roster may result in the team being ineligible to participate for the rest of the season. This rule has been adopted to prevent any potential forfeit situations that sometimes occur before the submission of final rosters.
- C.** Teams must register, using the National Website, paying all State and National Registration Fees and providing required general information by February 15<sup>th</sup>. The National Website can be reached through a link on our State Website at [www.ctalbb.com](http://www.ctalbb.com). Any team that does not meet the February 15th deadline will be charged a \$100 penalty. This same process must be used to purchase team insurance by February 15<sup>th</sup> (**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 17, 2013**. In addition, teams must still provide birth certificates, National Forms 1, 2 and 76, and copies of insurance policies to their zone chairman by **June 15, 2013**. The Roster is limited to eighteen (18) players. (For Both Senior and Junior Legion Teams)

- D. The zone average appearing on the roster shall be determined by the State Director, and shall not exceed the total enrollment count as outlined in the National American Legion Plan A Baseball Rules.
- E. Upon submission of rosters to the zone chairmen (no later than **Saturday, June 15, 2013**), each zone chairman shall inspect and validate the submitted rosters from his zone. Teams failing to submit their rosters by June **15, 2013** will be declared ineligible for state competition, in which case they would forfeit all their remaining zone games.
- F. Important information to be included in submitted papers:
1. Home address of player's parents (Forms #1 and #2)
  2. Players' signatures in proper place (Form #2)
  3. 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.
- G. Double Rostering with Senior Teams – For the regular season, Junior teams may double-roster as many age eligible players as they wish with the Senior Legion program but they still must be in compliance with roster maximum limits at each level. Players will be able to participate in both levels of the tournament subject to the following. A position player that plays in more than 50% of their senior zone games or a pitcher who pitches more than 20 innings in senior zone games, will not be eligible to play in the Junior State Tournament. There will not be any similar restriction on playing time for a junior player to play in the Senior Tournament. If at any time during the regular season a double rostered player becomes ineligible for the Junior Tournament (i.e. a pitcher who pitches more than 20 innings in senior zone games or a player who plays in more than 50% of their senior zone games), they would also immediately be ineligible to play (play in the field, pitch, bat, pinch run, etc...) in any more regular season junior games. 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. **In addition, if a player starts in more than one Senior State Tournament Game they will no longer be eligible to play in either the rest of the Junior regular season or Junior State Tournament. Starting with the 2013 season, players found ineligible to play in either the Junior regular season and/or Junior State Tournament because of Rule 6G will still be eligible to play in the Junior Regional and Junior World Series if applicable.**
- H. Non-American Legion (Outside) Sponsored Teams - 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 Baseball Committee.

- I. Merger of an Outside Sponsored Team with American Legion Post - 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 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.
- J. Controlling Organization – 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.

## TERRITORIAL ASSIGNMENTS - RULE 7

New rules for requested team combinations, mergers, spin-offs, territory re-alignment and re-assignment, new teams, and other changes to team territories (collectively referred to as Territorial Assignments) take effect for the 2006 baseball season, that need to be followed to have the State Committee review and act upon your request. See Appendix A for the rules.

## SPORTSMANSHIP & CONDUCT - RULE 8

- A. Code of Ethics – Prior to the start of the season, all field coaches and managers must sign the Coaches' Code of Ethics and submit to Zone Chairman.
- B. Conduct - Any manager, coach or player 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.

Any team that has any combination of more than four players, coaches or team officials kicked out of a 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.

- C. Disciplinary Policy - The 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.

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
  - d. 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.
  - e. 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).
  - f. 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 (senior or junior), can't play for the other level of play on the same day they are ejected. 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 its 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, tournament 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.

For clarification, the suspended individual is not allowed to:

- a. Communicate with any team personnel or umpires;
- 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.

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 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.

5. 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 complete an Ejection Report, which is available on our State Baseball Website ([www.ctalbb.com](http://www.ctalbb.com)), within 48 hours.

This report is to be given to the applicable Zone Chairman and State Director with the same 48 hour period. If this penalty is being appealed, the umpires may be asked to complete the Ejection Report in less time.

## DEPARTMENT JURISDICTION - RULE 9

- A. Connecticut American Legion Baseball - Connecticut American Legion baseball is governed by the Connecticut American Legion Committee, and shall be comprised of:
- B. Seven commissioners, each of who will be accorded one vote in matters brought before the committee. Commissioners are appointed per E. below.
- C. The zone **and assistant zone** chairmen (one per zone, as designated per G. below). Zone chairmen **and assistant zone chairman** are not accorded a formal vote in Committee matters, but act as important advisory members of the Committee.
- D. An umpire liaison/rules interpreter and anyone else appointed by the State Director, who are not accorded a vote in Committee matters.
- E. State Baseball Commissioners - The American Legion State Commander will annually appoint the seven 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.
- F. Zones
  - 1. 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.
  - 2. A minimum of six (6) teams (five for Junior Legion) will be required to constitute a zone, however, recommended zone size will be 8-11 teams. For **2013**, there will be eight zones. 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 (5 for the **2013** season), than the State Committee will move 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.
  - 3. 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.
  - 4. 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.

G. Zone Chairmen

1. The state director of the Baseball Committee appoints the zone chairmen **and assistant zone chairman**
2. Each zone chairman (**and assistant zone chairman in their absence**) shall be in charge of games that occur within his zone.
3. All zone issues will be referred to the zone chairman unless he disqualifies himself. If this event the issue will be referred to state director for a ruling or decision.
4. The zone chairman will notify the state director if any team fails to complete its schedule.

## STATE TOURNAMENTS - RULE 10

**Beginning with the 2013 State Tournaments (both Senior & Junior), the top 5 (\*) senior teams and the top 3-5 (depending upon the size of the zone - see chart below) (\*\*) junior teams from each zone qualify for the *Sectional Tournament* regardless of their winning percentage. These games will be played at the higher seeded teams' field. The state will be divided into two separate divisions (Zones 1, 6, 7 & 8 in the Northern Division and Zone 2, 3, 4 & 5 in the Southern Division) to reduce travel distance. All Regional Tournament Games will be within division. Each division of the Senior Regional Tournament will start with 20 teams (5 teams from each of the 4 zones). These games will be single elimination – the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> ranked teams will play the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> ranked teams, the winners will play the 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> ranked teams, etc... Once there are only 4 teams left in each division they will proceed to the *State Tournament*, which will now be held at 2 sites. These 4 teams will play a double elimination tournament. The champion from each of the 2 State Tournament Sites will advance to the *Championship Series*, which will be a best 2 out of 3 to be held at one of the State Tournament Sites. While the exact specifics for the Junior Legion State Tournament won't be finalized until after the team registration process is over, it will generally be the same as the Senior Tournament. For all tournament details please see the separate handout entitled "2013 Connecticut State Tournament" which will be located on our website in both the Rules and State Tournament sections after April 1, 2013.**

(\*) **while 5 teams from all other Senior Zone will qualify for the State Tournament, for the 2013 season 4 teams from Zone 7 and 6 teams from Zone 6 will qualify because of their number of teams**

(\*\*) **if 5 or 6 teams in zone, 3 teams qualify for Junior State Tournament  
if 7 or 8 teams in zone, 4 teams qualify for Junior State Tournament  
if 9 or 10 team in zone, 5 teams qualify for Junior State Tournament**

## TERRITORIAL ASSIGNMENTS

The state American Legion Baseball Committee has adopted the following set of rules for team combinations, mergers, spin-offs, territory re-alignment and re-assignment, and other changes to team territories (collectively referred to as Territorial Assignments). The rules below include examples to help illustrate some of the more technical aspects.

- (1) The State Baseball Committee retains final jurisdiction over all Territorial Assignments, and always seeks to balance the goal of maximizing youth participation on the one hand, while ensuring that the legion program remains competitive on the other hand. Accordingly, applications which seek to create “powerhouse” teams by combining two or more already-viable programs will generally be rejected, as will applications seeking to increase participation by creating new teams that risk the ongoing viability of existing programs.

[DEFINITION: As used herein, the term “affected team” refers to teams who will be newly formed, merged, or who will gain or lose recruiting rights to a territory if a Territorial Assignment application is approved. Teams who do not gain or lose any territorial rights, are not “affected teams” even though they may be impacted by the ensuing changes in competitive balance ]

### I. General and Enrollment Guidelines:

[In all cases, teams applying for Territorial Assignments have the burden of proof in determining whether the following objectives and information needs have been met ].

A. COMBINATIONS: Teams wishing to combine must have a combined enrollment of less than 4000 after the combination, as “enrollment” is defined in the national American Legion Baseball Rules.

- EXAMPLE 1: Team A, with enrollment of 2500, seeks to combine with team B, with enrollment of 1600. Combined enrollment of 4100 exceeds the limit, so this combination will be rejected.

B. NEW TEAMS: Applications to split an existing team apart into two or more teams will only be considered if each new team (and any surviving old teams):

- 1) Will have an enrollment base of at least 1000, AND
- 2) can demonstrate that it has ample financial backing, AND
- 3) can demonstrate it has sufficient players to sustain a viable program
  - EXAMPLE 2: Team A is a multiple-town team which consists of 1100 enrollment from town 1 and 900 enrollment from town 2. Town 2 applies to have its own team, splitting apart from Team A. Based on the numbers, this request would be rejected because Town 2 does not have at least 1000 enrollment.



- EXAMPLE 3: Team A is a multiple-town team which includes 1100 enrollment from town 1 and 1300 enrollment from town 2. Town 2 applies to have its own team (Team B) by splitting apart from Team A. Based on the numbers, this request could be approved if all other conditions are met as described above.

C. TERRITORY ACQUISITIONS: Teams wishing to acquire territory currently assigned to a different team may only do so if both of the following conditions are met :

- 1) the enrollment of each affected team after the reassignment will exceed 1000, AND
- 2) the “acquiring” team demonstrates that it will be able to roster more players from the “acquired” territory than are currently rostered by their current team. See example below.

- EXAMPLE 4: Team A and Team B are contiguous, and consist of the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Team A consists of two towns:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team B consists of two towns:</li> </ul>
Town 1 with enrollment of 1600	Town 3 with enrollment of 800
Town 2 with enrollment of 500.	Town 4 with enrollment of 300

In this example, Team B, with current total enrollment of 1100, applies to acquire Town 2 from Team A, which currently has enrollment of 2100.

If allowed, Team A would be left with only town 1 (1600 enrollment), and Team B would increase to 1600. Even though this proposed territory reassignment would seem to result in better balance of enrollment numbers, Team B still has the burden of proving that it can use more players from Town 2 than are currently being rostered by Team A.

In proving its case, Team B should focus on : How many players from Town 2 were rostered on the Team A Roster in each of the last three years; and how many roster spots , if any, were vacant on the Team A and Team B rosters in each of the last three years; Failure to provide this information will result in the rejection of the application.

- Even if Team B’s application is based on need (say, an inability to draw sufficient numbers of players from Towns 3 and 4), that fact does not mean that Team A will be split apart in order to improve Team B’s situation. *The state baseball committee is generally unwilling to split teams apart against their will.* It will generally only be willing to do that if the affected team – Team A – is not rostering players from a town, and those players can be given a better chance to play by re-assigning the territory.
- EXAMPLE 5: Same facts as Example 4, except Town 1 enrollment is only 800. Because that is less than 1000, Team B’s application would be rejected.

## II. Administrative Guidelines and Requirements:

All Territorial Assignment applications must begin at the zone level before they will be considered by the State Baseball Committee. The following procedures shall be followed in all cases:

- All requests must be filed on completed Form 7 (See separate Form Attached) with the respective zone chairman for the zone, who will immediately forward it to the State Baseball Director as well. Neither the state nor the zone chairman has any responsibility to do anything with the application until it is complete.
- Each team's "rights" under these rules shall be clearly explained to them by the zone chairman prior to any zone vote, as described below.
- Once the zone chairman has verified that the form is complete, the zone chairman must raise the matter to a general discussion at the next zone meeting, and must allow discussions for as long as necessary (i.e., including at subsequent zone meetings) to determine whether the zone teams agree or disagree with the proposal, as described in the next paragraph.
- No later than December 31 of the year in which the application is received (December 31 of the following year, if the application is received between November 15 and December 31 of any given year), the zone chairman is responsible for bringing the matter to a vote of the zone. A quorum is required, as follows: First, all Affected Teams shall be excluded from voting. At least 50% of the remaining zone teams *eligible to vote* must be present, and of those present, at least 50% must approve the application.
  - EXAMPLE 6: A zone with 9 teams is considering a proposal from Team 1 to acquire territory from Team 2. In the zone voting, neither team 1 or 2 may vote, which leaves 7 eligible teams for voting. At least 4 of those 7 teams must be present to constitute a quorum, and of those actually present, a majority must approve the proposal for it to "carry" at the zone level.
- Regardless of the zone vote, the zone chairman must report the outcome of the zone vote to the State Baseball Committee at its January meeting:
  - Note that the application is automatically placed on the January agenda by the State Director when he receives his copy of the application (see above). The zone may not delay or stall the application process. Regardless of the resolution of the matter at the zone level, it will be an agenda item at the state meeting in January.
  - If the zone votes to accept the proposal, and the zone chairman also concurs, the state Baseball Committee will generally adopt the application, effective for the immediately upcoming season or the following season depending on the circumstances. The decision as to timing is always at the discretion of the state Committee.
  - Regardless of the zone vote result, if either the zone chairman or an Affected Team disagrees with the zone vote, they may appeal to the state Baseball Committee no later than its January meeting to reconsider the zone vote, with a clear explanation regarding why they think the vote should be dismissed.
  - Each Affected Team has the right under these rules to attend the January state Baseball Committee meeting to actively participate in the state Committee discussions.

The state Committee may decide to table its final decision on the matter for one full year, during which time more information may be obtained.

1. If the State Committee tables the decision, its minutes for the January meeting must clearly describe the matter(s) in question, the information necessary to make the final decision, and who has responsibility to gather and provide that information.
  2. Alternatively, the State Baseball Committee may choose to grant the application, but impose a one-year delay in its effective date, in order to give affected teams a reasonable amount of time to adjust their affairs accordingly.
  3. The state Baseball Committee always reserves its right to approve or reject an application based on competitive balance or other reasonable concerns, notwithstanding the outcome of the vote at the zone level.
- The state Baseball Committee reserves the right to intervene to correct instances of obvious injustice or competitive imbalance. In these circumstances, the recommendation of the zone chairman will be given significant weight by the state Baseball Committee.
  - Any zone chairman or state Committee member who actively manages or participates in the management of an Affected Team shall recuse himself from voting on the proposal, at all levels.

In the event that any application under these rules crosses zones (e.g., a team in zone A seeks to combine with, or acquire part of the territory of, a neighboring team which is in a different zone), the guidelines above must be followed with the following modifications:

- If the proposal is to combine existing teams, then BOTH zone chairman of the two affected zones must receive the application, and the above guidelines and process must be followed in EACH zone affected. The state committee will generally only act on the application if it is approved in both zones, unless it believes the proposal is in the overall best interest of the state program.