

THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA BASEBALL RULES & INFORMATION



2026

Prepared and Distributed By
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department Baseball Sub-Committee

Table of Contents

The Code of Sportsmanship 3

Dates to Remember 3

American Legion Baseball Rules: 4

National Rulebook 4

State & Team Website 4

Rule 1: Department Administration 4

Rule 2: Registering a Team 4

Rule 3: Americanism 5

Rule 4: Schedules 5

Rule 5: Player Recruiting 6

Rule 6: Rosters and Coaching Staff 7

Rule 7: Rules of Play 9

Rule 8: Forfeiture 12

Rule 9: Protests 12

Rule 10: Umpires 13

Rule 11: Sportsmanship 13

Rule 12: Senior American Legion Baseball 14

2026 S.C. American Legion Senior Playoff Format 14

Rule 13: State Champion 15

Rule 14: Junior American Legion Specific Rules 15

2026 SOUTH CAROLINA AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL AGE CHART					
SCALB Age	Birthdate Range	School Grade 2024-25	Level	Class of	Age Cut-off
12	1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014	5th Grade / 6th Grade	Not Eligible	2031/32	2014
13	1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013	6th Grade / 7th Grade	AA	2030/31	2013
14	1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012	7th Grade / 8th Grade	AA	2029/30	2012
15	7/31/2010 - 12/1/2011	8th Grade / Freshman	AA	2028/29	2011
16	8/1/2010 - 12/31/2010	Freshman / Sophomore	AAA	2027/28	2010
17	1/1/2009 - 12/31/2009	Sophomore / Junior	AAA	2026/27	2009
18	1/1/2008 - 12/31/2008	Junior / Senior	Senior	2025/26	2008
19	1/1/2007 - 12/31/2007	Senior / College Freshman	Senior	2024/25	2007
20		College Fresh/Soph	Not Eligible	2023/24	2006

ANY PLAYER MAY PLAY UP TO ANY DIVISION

**MINIMUM AGE IS 1/1/2013

***MAXIMUM AGE IS 1/1/2007

**** AA Division uses 8/1 Cutoff - Players who turn 16 on or before 8/1/2010 must play AAA

At all times, a bona-fide member of the post or team sponsor must officially oversee the team and home game location.

The Code of Sportsmanship will be repeated by competing teams before each game, without exception.

The Code of Sportsmanship

I WILL:

Keep the rules.

Keep faith with my teammates.

Keep my temper.

Keep myself fit.

Keep a stout heart in defeat.

Keep my pride under in victory.

Keep a sound soul, a clean mind, and a healthy body.

*It is suggested that the National Anthem should be played or sung before each game. *

Dates to Remember

January 1	Registration for ALB begins at www.legion.org /baseball .
January 11	SCALB State Meeting (Richland Post 6)
February 1	Deadline to Request Base School change
February 2	Release of State Rulebook, Team Recruiting Zones & Enrollment's
March 1	Deadline to submit Senior Team Registration
April 1	Senior DRAFT Schedules Released – Adjustment Window Open
April 8	Deadline to Adjust Senior League Schedule on HTO Website
May 1	Deadline to submit Junior Team Registration
May 8	Deadline to Adjust Senior League Schedule on HTO Website
May 15	Deadline for submitting proof of insurance and registration fees.
May 24	Team Rosters MUST be at or below 22.
June 1	Last Day to complete registration with \$200 penalty.
June 25	National Roster (SENIOR ONLY) online entry deadline
July 6	AAA Wildcard Games
July 6-9	AA State Championships
July 8-10	AAA Playoff Round
July 13 -19	AAA State Championship Tournament
July 13	Senior Wildcard Games
July 15-17	Senior Playoff Round
July 20-26	Senior State Championship Tournament
July 31	Deadline to submit State Champion to National HQ
August 5-9	Southeastern Regionals – Asheboro, NC
August 13-18	ALB World Series – Shelby, NC

American Legion Baseball Rules:

National Rulebook

All rules of play will be adhered to as they are written in the National American Legion Baseball Rule book. Any National rule supersedes any State rule. South Carolina American Legion Baseball may not make any rule “Less Restrictive” than any National Rule.

State & Team Website

The SC American Legion DEC has funded a state baseball website (<https://SCALB.org>) Please visit for scores, stats, schedules, standings, rosters, and any official forms and documents.

- EVERY registered SCALB team will receive a team site at no additional charge.
- Teams are required to post non-league schedules, scores, and pitch counts. Statistics are Highly Encouraged
- You will receive log in credentials at registration to begin customizing your team(s) websites.
- League office will post League schedules and assign players to rosters.

Rule 1: Department Administration

The American Legion, Department of South Carolina Baseball program shall be governed by a Sub-Committee of the Department Americanism Commission to be designated as the Baseball Committee. The Department Commander will approve a Baseball Director, who shall administer the program in keeping with the general policies of the Department Americanism Commission and the specific rules as promulgated by the Baseball Committee. The Baseball Committee shall operate within the guidelines of the Department Americanism Commission and the Department Constitution and By Laws.

Rule 2: Registering a Team

A. Team Registration

Teams must register team by **April 1st, 2026**, to participate in the 2026 season.

Teams register at <https://baseball.legion.org/>

- a. Sign In to your Account (If you need to create an account follow the directions on the page)
- b. Select Add/Renew Team
- c. Select Search for Team or Create New Team – follow prompts.
- d. Fill out Team Information for 2026 season page and click “Save Team.”
- e. Select Sponsor Tab and Search or enter your sponsor information and click “Save this Legion Post.”
- f. Select Administrator Tab and enter your Team Administrator information and click “Save.”
- g. Select Manager Tab and enter your Team Manager information and click “Save this Manager.”
- h. Select Coaches Tab: enter all coach and staff information and click “Save Coaches & Staff”
- i. Select Submit Application (Do not Submit until ALL Coach information is entered) Check all agreement boxes, enter signature information, and click “Submit Application.”
- j. Safe Sport Tab will show the status of each coaches abuse training and background check.
- k. Select Registration Fee Tab (DUE 5/15/26) Enter information and pay registration fee.

B. Team Insurance

Teams purchase Insurance by May 15th, 2026, at <https://www.kandkinsurance.com/sites/americanlegion/Pages/Home.aspx>
All teams must be covered by National-approved group accident and liability insurance in compliance with National Rule 1-H Certification.

***Forward insurance receipt email to scalboffical@gmail.com for proof of insurance.**

Insurance be obtained prior to the start of practice or tryouts

C. Registration Fees

ALL teams MUST pay registration fees and Insurance by May 15, 2026, to be eligible to participate.

D. New Team Formation

1. Senior American Legion Baseball
 - a. It is the opinion of the South Carolina Baseball Committee that Senior American Legion Baseball should be the most competitive level of amateur baseball for players 19 years or younger.
 - b. Team may NOT have a recruiting zone larger than a combined 7500 enrollment determined by adding the High School enrollments (grades 10, 11 and 12) determined by the South Carolina Department of Education.
 - c. New team recruiting zones are determined by the South Carolina Baseball Committee. Only the predetermined recruiting territories will be considered for new Senior Division teams.
 - d. No new team request will be approved using a school included with an existing teams' recruiting zone without permission from the existing teams Athletic Officer, Athletic Director, or Post Commander.
 - e. If approved the South Carolina Baseball Committee will assign the new teams BASE school and assigned recruiting zone.
2. Junior American Legion Baseball – AAA & AA
 - a. It is the opinion of the South Carolina Baseball that the goal of Junior American Legion Baseball is opportunity and development of young players.
 - b. Team may NOT have a recruiting zone larger than a combined 7500 enrollment determined by adding the High School enrollments (grades 10, 11 and 12) determined by the South Carolina Department of Education. The official SCALB enrollment numbers will be posted on state baseball website.
 - c. New team recruiting zones are determined by the South Carolina Baseball Committee
 - d. ALL New Team request for Junior American Legion Baseball will be considered by the Baseball Committee, if the new teams' school is included in an existing teams' recruiting zone the committee will consider approval of the applicant with a single BASE school recruiting zone unless otherwise approved by the existing team.
 - e. If approved the South Carolina Baseball Committee will assign the new teams BASE school and assigned recruiting zone.

Rule 3: Americanism

American Legion Baseball is an Americanism program for the teaching of clean sportsmanship and upright American Citizenship. All Legionnaires are urged to set a high standard of sportsmanship and citizenship in conducting this program. Acts of rowdy behavior, gambling, indecent actions, and other acts which would bring discredit to The American Legion will not be tolerated. **Any member of the Baseball Committee present at games has authority to take action in suspending players or coaches upon rule violations.** Team managers and coaches shall instruct their players in the code of sportsmanship and this code shall be repeated at home plate by competing teams before each game (see Code of Sportsmanship Instruction on inside cover).

Rule 4: Schedules

- A. The Baseball Committee shall prepare and publish schedules of play; pass upon the eligibility of players and teams; and perform all other functions necessary for the conduct of the program in accordance with National and Department rules.
- B. The team shall complete the season's official schedule.
 1. All SCALB Senior teams will play according to the league schedule published by the Committee.
 - a. Senior League Games will be scheduled between June 8th – July 10th
 - b. Junior League Games will be scheduled between May 25th – July 3rd
 - c. Teams will have 7 days to adjust the dates to accommodate stadium schedules in HTO.
 - d. League games will be locked and cannot be rescheduled, added, or deleted at the above deadline.
 - e. Teams must contact the League Office to make any changes to any league game after the designated window closes.
 2. All scheduled League games MUST be completed.
 3. Forfeitures are viewed by the State Committee for future team selection.
 4. Postponed games must be played prior to the next scheduled game between the same 2 teams (if applicable) OR the next day available to both teams including Saturdays and Sundays.
 - a. If the games cannot be played within one calendar week, the Baseball Director shall be notified and shall set a date for postponed games to be played.
 - b. Failure to play postponed games as provided for in these rules may result in forfeiture.
 5. Teams MUST complete the regular season schedule to be eligible for the post season.

6. If ANY League or Playoff game cannot be scheduled on the home team's field the game MUST be played on alternate field including but not limited to the visiting team's home field.
 7. Incomplete League games may be ruled a Forfeit or a Double Forfeit by the SCALB Committee if not completed by the last day of the regular season or as directed by the Baseball Committee.
- C. Non-League Games
1. Teams may schedule an unlimited number of non-league games.
 - a. ALL non-league games MUST be added to team's schedule in HTO by Team Administrator
 - b. ALL Teams MUST report Pitch Counts for ALL Non-League and/or Tournament Games
 - c. To help with scheduling non-league games we have added a Game Finder section on the HTO website under the League Office Tab - <https://www.scalb.org/teams/default.asp?u=SOUTHCAROLI-BASEBALL&s=baseball&p=bboard>

Rule 5: **Player Recruiting**

- A. **Base School:** The Base School is assigned by the State Committee for each team. A Team's Base school is the location used to determine player eligibility and recruiting zones per ALB Rule 4 Plan B recruiting. No team may recruit a player from another team's Base School. A Base school cannot be changed without the approval of the Baseball Committee. To change your base school, you must request in writing to the League Office by February 1st prior to that year's season. Please include any information to explain the reason for the request. The Baseball Committee will review and notify of the decision in 7-10 days.
- B. **Recruiting Zone:** The South Carolina Baseball Committee will determine a "Recruiting Zone" for each approved American Legion Team based on the official 45-day enrollment released by the South Carolina Department of Education and South Carolina Independent Schools Association. The committee will also use American Legion Plan B recruiting rules and historical references to assign each team's school recruiting zone. No team may recruit a player from a team's Recruiting Zone. The SCALB Committee reserves the right to make any changes at any time to the territories with a majority vote. The list will be posted at SCALB.org under the League Office tab. The State Committee reserves the right to realign recruiting zones if school enrollment increases the total recruiting zone enrollment over the National limit of 7500.
- C. **Player Recruiting:** Teams may recruit players from the SCALB Assigned Recruiting Zone or from schools closest to the Teams' base school listed on an "Inactive" SCALB Team Recruiting Zone. **No Team may recruit or contact players from a school listed on an "Active" SCALB Team Recruiting Zone.**
1. A Player's "High School" is determined to be the High School the player attended on 3/31/2026 or graduated from in the prior year.
 2. Players who attend a Team's "BASE" school or Recruiting Zone school MUST play or try out for ONLY that team.
 3. Only players who try out and receive a signed Form 76 Release Form (Rule 5.D) from the Assigned SCALB Team will be approved to play for the next closest team.
 4. Players who attend a school listed in a SCALB Team Recruiting Zone MUST Tryout out for their assigned team unless they meet one of the following criteria. If one of the below applies; the Player must submit a signed Form 77 Declaration (Rule 5.E) for approval.
 - a. Players with legally divorced parents may determine which Parents' domicile they choose to play under. Once this address is determined, it is permanent for the remainder of the player's American Legion Baseball eligibility.
 - b. Players who attend a Private or Charter school assigned to a different team than the team closest to the players' permanent domicile. If approved the designation will be permanent throughout the players American Legion Baseball eligibility.
 - c. The player's parents have relocated and have an established permanent address is assigned a different team than the player's current high school. The address MUST be established before 3/31/2026. Proof of address will be required.
 5. Players who attend a High School that is assigned to a vacant team recruiting zone MUST try out for the SCALB Team whose BASE school is closest to the players' permanent domicile.
- D. **Form 76 Release Form:**
1. The player must attend a **Try Out** and be Cut from the assigned American Legion team.
 2. The player must obtain a signed Form 76 release form submitted to scalbofficial@gmail.com and APPROVED by the Department Chairman.
 3. Please allow 48-72 hours for all decisions
 4. If APPROVED by the Department Chairman, the player will be assigned to the roster of the next closest team to the player's home address. National ALB Rule 4.D. The process repeats if the next team releases the same player.

5. All parties will be notified of the reassignment via email.

E. Form 77 Team Declaration:

1. Player MUST meet criteria listed in SCALB Rule 5.C.4
2. Players must complete American Legion Form 77 and submit it to scalbofficial@gmail.com for approval.
3. Players may not participate in any activities with the requested team until the request is approved and the player is assigned to the team's roster by the League Office.
4. Please allow 48-72 hours for all decisions
5. All parties will be notified of the reassignment via email.
6. Team MUST count the enrollment from the school the player attended on 3/31/2026 or graduated from in 2025.

F. State Border Restriction:

1. Players who reside in the state of South Carolina and attend a South Carolina High School must receive written approval from the Department Chair to be released using Form 76 and/or transfer using Form 77.
2. Players who attend a team's BASE school will NOT be granted permission by the Department Chairman.

G. Recruiting Violations:

1. Coaches MAY NOT contact or recruit players who attend a school assigned to another team's assigned recruiting zone.
2. Any Coach, Athletic Officer, or Team Representative found to violate any SCALB recruiting rule may be subject to review by the committee and may result in suspension or expulsion.
3. Any player found to violate any SCALB recruiting rule may be subject to disqualification to participate.
4. Multiple violations by any team may result in forfeitures, suspensions, or dismissal of the team from SCALB.

Rule 6: **Rosters and Coaching Staff**

- A. Teams are permitted to have up to twenty-two (22) players on the team's SCALB active roster for the State Tournament.
- B. All players MUST register using the 2026 Player Registration Form at <https://www.scalb.org> to be eligible to participate in the 2026 season.
1. Once players complete the 2026 Player Registration form, they will be added to the assigned team's roster, per National Recruiting Rule 4.
 2. The 2026 Player Registration form at [scalb.org](https://www.scalb.org) is a valid and accepted version of the National Form 2. (Only Senior teams advancing to the 2026 Southeast Regional will require a paper copy of the National Form 2)
 3. Players who register after 5/25/2026 will be approved on a case-by-case basis by the committee. Information, including but not limited to Team Roster, Recruiting Zone, Team Attendance total, and Classification, will be used in the decision-making process.
 4. All Players 18 years old or older during the 2026 season are required to submit the required background check prior to being approved for a team roster.
 - a. Background checks to be completed at <https://opportunities.averity.com/ALSC>
 - b. To confirm approved background checks, go to Coaches and Staff tab at <https://baseball.legion.org>
- C. Roster Deadline:
1. Rosters MUST be cut to 22 or below by 5/24/2026.
 2. Players MAY be added until National Deadline of 6/25/2026 using the Player Registration process.
 3. Roster MAY NOT exceed 22 Players.
 4. Non-Rostered Players MAY NOT participate in ANY SCALB sanctioned game(s).
 5. Any player added after the roster deadline must attend a school already included in the team's current enrollment.
- D. Senior division Teams must post the National tournament eighteen (18) player roster by the June 25th National roster deadline. AAA and AA teams do not need to submit a national roster form 1.
1. **All players entered on Form 1 National roster must have appeared on the State 22-man roster.** Any violation of this rule will result in immediate forfeiture of all games and result in disqualification from the postseason.
 2. If a team has fewer than 22 players on the roster they may add players up to the end of the regular season by submitting a request in writing to scalbofficial@gmail.com (Player must fill out player registration form at <https://scalb.org>)
 3. Players MUST appear on the lineup card in a minimum of 3 regular season games prior to the end of the regular season to be eligible for the playoff roster.

(Exception: Player is a replacement for a season ending injury and no other player from the 22-man roster is available. Approval by Department Chairman Required)

E. Coach Requirements.

1. All Coaches and Team staff are required to submit the required background check prior to any contact with players.
 - a. Background checks to be completed at <https://opportunities.averity.com/ALSC>
 - b. To confirm approved background checks, go to Coaches and Staff tab at <https://baseball.legion.org>
2. All Coaches and Staff are required to provide a "Certificate of Completion" from either the Protect Youth Sports or USA Baseball Abuse training.
 - a. Athletic Officers MUST submit the Abuse Training Affidavit to the League office by 5/15/2026.
 - b. Individual Certificates are to be kept on file by the Team Manager and available upon request.
3. Coaches are required by National Rule 1. (Players and coaches must be in uniforms of the same color and style when competing in regular season department (state) and national tournaments.)
 - a. Jersey and/or Cage Jacket with required ALB insignia on Left sleeve
 - b. Baseball pants are REQUIRED for coaches to be on the playing field. Including pregame activities (Code, National Anthem, etc....) Coaches and Staff are permitted in the dugout but will be restricted to the dugout from the moment the umpires enter the field of play until the umpires leave the field of play.
REPORT – Opposing team MUST report to League Director prior to the completion of the game.
PENALTY – Coach without ALB insignia is restricted to dugout; League Director will be notified of violation.
4. Protective Helmets
 - a. Protective Helmets are REQUIRED to be worn by base coaches for ALL levels of American Legion Baseball (Senior, AAA, and AA)
REPORT – UIC must be notified of offense prior to the completion of the game.
PENALTY – 1st Offense Warning, 2nd Offense Ejection, 3rd Offense Suspension (3 Games)
No Protest allowed

F. During league and playoff games only Coaches and Team staff that have completed ALB background checks and abuse training, twenty-two (22) players in uniform, and not more than two (2) bat persons (supervised) Shall be allowed to the player's bench. Recommended not to exceed 30 people.

G. The minimum number of players is Nine (9) through the regular season and Playoffs. State Tournament games requires a minimum of Twelve (12) players.

H. Players may be removed from your official team roster ONLY in the event of a season ending injury. Once the National Roster has been posted players can ONLY be removed in the event of a season ending injury up to 24 hours prior to the first playoff game. No player shall be removed from ANY roster once the Postseason begins.

1. Players with a season ending injury may only be removed from the roster with approval of the State Baseball Director.
2. Official Letter from a qualified physician and request in writing from Team Manager must be submitted to the League office prior to removal of player.
3. A new player may be added to the roster to replace the player removed. The player MUST register using the SCALB online Form 24 hours prior to the player playing in an official game and adhere to SCALB Rule 6.C.5
4. If an injured player is removed after the National roster deadline AND the team has 22 players listed on their SCALB Official roster, then the replacement player must be a player previously listed on the 22 man roster. If the team had less than 22 players listed on the SCALB official roster form, then a new player may be added.

I. The Baseball Director, in collaboration with the Baseball Committee:

1. May suspend any coach, player or other person connected with a team for unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - a. Unsportsmanlike conduct by spectators shall be considered within the scope of this rule.
 - b. It will be the responsibility of the home team to maintain order on the field and within the stands.
 - c. This rule will be strictly enforced, and Athletic Officers will be held accountable for the conduct of their coaches, players, and spectators.
2. Shall obtain a complete written report from the officials (athletic officers, team coaches and umpires) concerning any alleged violations of conduct.
3. May order forfeit or replay any game that he determines has been affected by unsportsmanlike conduct.

J. Any player or coach ejected from a game will be suspended from the next scheduled league or playoff game. The Baseball Director will be notified of the suspension. Second offenses could cause suspension for the remainder of the year and may be fined up to \$100.00 per offense. Third offenses will result in disqualification from ALB activities.

1. Any player or coach ejected from a game must immediately leave the dugout and may not be in the vicinity of the

team's dugout or players.

2. Any player or coach suspended from a game may not participate in any on-field pregame activities and must be in the vicinity of the team's dugout or players.

- K. Dual participation: Players or Teams may participate in other amateur baseball programs during the regular season only; however, the team manager and player must obtain written approval from the department baseball chairman prior to participating in the event and/or tournament.

Clarification: For the week between the end of the State Championships and the start of the regionals players attending military assignment, MLB-sanctioned invitation only events, player combine/evaluation of extended drills and/or game-like scenarios events, or college of enrollment orientation workouts may be granted an exception on a case-by-case basis with proper documentation Prior written approval from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman is required

- L. Dual Roster Players: A Senior team may carry up to Three (3) dual roster players. These players must appear on both Junior and Senior team State certified roster and/or National Form 1 if on final 18-man roster.

Rule 7: Rules of Play

- A. Official Game: All league games must be 7 innings. If a game is suspended (Rule 7.L) it will be resumed at the next available date or prior to the next game between the same two teams (if applicable). Any game that is suspended after 4.5 innings with the home team leading by runs may be called complete by the baseball committee if no future game is scheduled between the same two teams. (REQUIRES APPROVAL by the Baseball Department Chairman). The 10-run rule will be in effect after completion of the 5th inning.
- B. Games shall be on a home-and-home basis, unless otherwise agreed upon.
- C. Double headers are permitted.
1. Seniors MUST play two (2) seven (7) inning games.
 2. Junior AAA and AA may elect to play (2) 5-inning games.
- D. The home team shall designate the hour and the place for each home game. It shall be the responsibility of the home team to dispatch official notification to the visiting team in the event of any changes.
- E. Courtesy Runner: Teams may use the courtesy runner during regular and post season.
- F. Re-entry: Each Committeeman may elect to allow re-entry of the starting players, except for the pitcher and the designated hitter, may withdraw from the game and re-enter once, provided such players occupy the same batting position whenever they re-enter the lineup. Starting pitchers and designated hitters that change positions later in the same game are NOT eligible to re-enter. Re-entry will NOT be allowed in State playoff games.
- G. Mound Visits: Each Team is allowed (1) Mound Visit per inning with no penalty. The pitcher MUST be removed on the second visit. Mound Visits are recorded when a Defensive Coach calls time and crosses onto the playing field. Defensive visits from players on the field are NOT counted as a Mound Visit.
- H. Pitcher/Designated Hitter: Per National ALB rule the Pitcher/DH "Ohtani Rule" is NOT permitted in Senior American Legion play.
- I. One Way Communication: A coach may use a one-way electronic communication with the catcher only for the purpose of calling pitches. No communication devices are permitted on offense,
- J. Extra Inning Rule: (Runner at 2B) will NOT be utilized in American Legion Baseball.
- K. Pitch Timer:
1. MLB Rule 5.07.c (Pitcher Delays) will be observed but not timed.
 2. When the bases are unoccupied, the pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter within 12 seconds after he receives the ball. Each time the pitcher delays the game by violating this rule, the umpire shall call "Ball."
- L. Suspended Game: A game becomes a suspended game if an act of nature or technical issue (i.e., Weather, Lights, etc.) suspends play before a game becomes a complete game.

1. **A suspended game must be reported to your Committeemen prior to the teams leaving the field.**
Your Committeeman will work with both teams to reschedule, and resume play from the point the game became suspended at the next available and logical date.
2. Suspended game(s) will be scheduled to be completed prior to the next scheduled game between the same two teams at the scheduled location.
3. If teams do not have another scheduled game, then suspended games shall be rescheduled at the next available date for both teams.
4. If a game is tied after completing the requirements of an official game and becomes a suspended game, and it is determined that no logical date is available to resume play the game must revert to the last completed inning, if that score is tied then the game must be declared a tie.
5. Any Game NOT rescheduled within 48 hours will be ruled a double forfeit and each team will receive a loss.
6. No Suspended game may be called complete if the teams involved have another scheduled game or open date prior to the end of the season.
7. Only players listed on the suspended games line up cards are eligible to play in the resumed game.

M. Postponed/Suspended Postseason Games

1. All Playoff games MUST complete 7 innings. The 10-run rule will be in effect after completion of the 5th inning.
2. In the event a postseason game is POSTPONED prior to the start of the game the following procedure MUST be followed:
 - a. If a playoff series game is postponed and is the 1st or 2nd postponed game of the series, the game will move back 1 calendar day and resume in the same order.
 - b. Double Headers MUST be utilized to complete the series after the 2nd SECOND weather event.
3. In the event a postseason game is SUSPENDED the following procedure MUST be followed:
 - a. If a playoff series game (1 or 2) has NOT completed 3.5 Innings the game MUST be resumed at the location of the home team at the time of suspension.
 - b. If a playoff series game (1 or 2) HAS completed 3.5 innings the game MUST be resumed the next day PRIOR to the start of the next game at the scheduled location.
 - c. If Game 3 of a playoff series game is SUSPENDED at any point it will resume the next day at the location of the home team at the time of suspension.
 - d. Double Headers MUST be utilized to complete the series after the 2nd SECOND weather event.
4. In the event a Senior State Championship game is Suspended or Postponed the game will be rescheduled at the time and location determined by the Baseball Department Chairman. Teams MUST report immediately upon suspension/postponement.

N. Pitch Smart: SCALB is a “Pitch Smart” compliant league and will adhere to the rules set forth by Pitch Smart, USA Baseball, MLB, and National American Legion Rules. Teams MUST report pitch counts to be eligible for the Postseason.

1. Pitch Counts/Days Rest Requirement
 - a. Maximum number of daily pitches Senior and AAA Division - 105
 - b. Maximum number of daily pitches for AA Division and players 15 & under - 95
 - c. Required Days Rest – See below chart.
 - d. Players may re-enter the game at pitcher. Pitchers may not exceed 105/95 daily pitches. Re-entering at pitcher counts as a 2nd appearance and pitch counts must be combined to calculate correct required days rest.
 - e. If a team has multiple games on the same day, a pitcher who pitches more than 45 pitches in Game 1 may not pitch in a subsequent game that day and will be required to follow the rest protocol listed.



Age	Daily MAX Pitches	Required Days Rest (Pitches)				
		0 Days	1 Days	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
Junior AA	95*	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+
Senior & Jr. AAA	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+

2. Pitch Count Reporting
 - a. Pitch counts must be entered on the state (HTO) website.
 - b. Coaches should verify pitch counts (Post Game) for accuracy.
 - c. Pitches are to be reported on the State (HTO) website by NOON (12:00) the day following the game.
 - d. (HTO) website will automatically update each player “Next day available” in accordance with Pitch Smart requirements listed above.
 - e. Pitch Counts posted at SCALB.org are the Official pitch counts to determine a player’s days’ rest. Any discrepancies must be reported to the League Director prior to the players’ next available pitch date.
3. Violations
 - a. **Reporting Violation** - A Reporting Violation occurs when a Team fails to report pitch counts within the required time frame.
PROTEST – If a Team is suspected of a “Reporting Violation” the opposing team may protest by placing the game under protest according to SCALB Rule 9 (below). The game “under protest” is to be played as scheduled.
PENALTY – If the Baseball Committee finds a team in violation of failure to report pitch counts the following penalties apply.
 - 1st Offense - Head Coach will be suspended for 2 Games.
 - 2nd Offense - Head Coach will be suspended for 3 Games.
 - 3rd Offense - Head Coach suspended for the season and future participation with American Legion Baseball will be reviewed by the Baseball Committee.
 - b. **Days’ Rest Violation** – A Days’ Rest Violation occurs when a player throws a pitch in a game prior to meeting the required days rest per the SCALB Rule 7.I.1
 1. **In Violation is found during the game:**
PROTEST - If a Team is suspected of pitching a player prior to meeting the “Required Days’ Rest” the opposing team may protest by notifying the Umpire of the violation. A League Official will check the pitch counts according to the SCALB Pitch Tracker at www.scalb.org . A violation occurs if the SCALB Pitch Tracker validates a player is not eligible to pitch or a failure to report a pitcher’s pitch count from the players last appearance on the mound.
PENALTY - The pitcher is removed from the mound (may remain in game at another position), the Head Coach will be ejected and serve an additional 1 game suspension.
COMMITTEE – The SCALB Committee will review the infraction and reserves the right to suspend the manager for additional game(s) if the infraction is deemed a purposeful breach of the rules.
 2. **If Violation is found after the completion of the game:**
PROTEST - If a Team is suspected of pitching a player prior to meeting the “Required Days’ Rest” the opposing team may protest by placing the game under protest according to SCALB Rule 9 (below). The game “under protest” is to be played as scheduled.
PENALTY - If the Baseball Committee finds a team in violation of failing to meet a players’ “Required Days Rest” the following penalties apply.
 - 1st Offense - Head Coach will be suspended for 2 Games.
 - 2nd Offense - Head Coach will be suspended for 3 Games.
 - 3rd Offense - Head Coach suspended for the season and future participation with American Legion Baseball will be reviewed by the Baseball Committee.
 - c. **Daily Limit Violation** - A Daily Limit Violation occurs when a pitcher throws 1 pitch beyond the Pitch Smart Daily Limit number for their division. 105 Senior and AAA / 95 for AA.
PROTEST – If a Team is suspected of a “Daily Limit Violation” the opposing team may protest by placing the game under protest according to SCALB Rule 9 (below). The game “under protest” is to be played as scheduled. The Umpire in Charge MUST check the home book pitch counts to verify the players pitch count. If the Pitcher in question throws 1 pitch over the limit a violation has occurred.
PENALTY – If the UIC finds a team in violation of failure to report pitch counts the following penalties apply.
 - 1st Offense - Pitcher immediately removed from the mound (can stay in the game at another position) and Head Coach ejected from contest and will serve an additional one-game suspension.
 - 2nd Offense - Pitcher immediately removed from the mound (can stay in the game at another position) and Head Coach ejected from contest and will serve an additional two-game suspension.
 - 3rd Offense - Pitcher immediately removed from the mound (can stay in the game at another position) and Head Coach ejected from contest and disqualified for the season.

USA Baseball / Pitch Smart Clarification:

In either case (in-game & post-game), the pitcher in question will not receive any direct penalty but will be made to adhere to the prescribed days of rest based on the number of pitches at the time of the infraction. The team in question will not receive any direct penalty (beyond penalization of the Head Coach) but will continually be made to adhere to the prescribed pitch count rules for the remainder of the season.

Rule 8: **Forfeiture**

- A. **Forfeitures:** Teams must notify the opponent within 4 hours of the scheduled first pitch or the game will be considered a FORFEIT, and the team cancelling MUST pay a \$300.00 fine to the opponent within seven business days. Failure to pay fines will result in disqualification from the post season.
1. League and Playoff games will be considered a forfeit 30 minutes after the scheduled start time if either team is unable to take the field.
 2. All FORFEITS will be recorded as a 0-7 Loss.
 3. STRATEGIC FORFEITS will not be permitted. A “Strategic Forfeit” defined as a forfeit that is found to create an advantage to the team via team rest, playoff seeding, pitch counts, etc. Any team found by committee vote to have strategically forfeited a league game MAY be disqualified from the postseason or future seasons.
 4. Any team that forfeits three league games in a season will be ineligible to advance to the postseason.
 5. Any team that forfeits four games or more in a season may be subject to suspension of the following season.
 6. Any team who forfeits a Playoff game will be disqualified from the postseason and will be fined \$300; the fine will be distributed to your scheduled playoff opponent.

Rule 9: **Protests**

- A. Protests
1. Rules of Protest
 - a. All protests must be delivered using the SCALB Official protest form at scalb.org - <https://www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/registration.asp?u=SOUTHCAROLI-BASEBALL&s=baseball&p=registration&soloPage=1&formID=209646>.
 - b. Protests must be submitted by the Post Commander or a duly authorized representative.
 - c. Protests must be of a specific nature and must set forth definite evidence.
 2. **Protests involving judgment of umpires will not be considered. Fee will not be returned.**
 3. Protests of Team School Enrollments or Enrollees as listed on team rosters must be reported to the Baseball Director immediately upon discovery, in writing using the official protest guidelines listed above. Total Team Enrollments cannot exceed 7,500 students. NOTE: Use enrollment figures for the School Headcount at <https://ed.sc.gov/data/other/student-counts/active-student-headcounts>
 4. During league play, protests involving the actual play of a game must be filed with the Committee Baseball Director within 24 hours after completion of the game. Verbal protests will be accepted, but the written protest and fee must be received by the Baseball Director within 48 hours of completion of the game.
 5. In the event protest involves the actual play of a game, the Umpire-in-Chief must be advised before resumption of play. The team’s authorized representative must state that the game is being played under protest. The grounds on which the protest is being made must be specific. The Umpire-in-Chief will file a written report with the Baseball Director immediately after the protested game is completed delineating the circumstances involved. The umpire shall announce publicly that the game is being played under protest and the game must continue until an official game is recorded.
 6. Protests involving issues that DO NOT result in a competitive advantage will NOT result in forfeiture of games. (i.e. uniform infractions, missing patches, official baseballs, etc.)
 7. Protests not filed in the appropriate time frame WILL NOT be reviewed and fees WILL NOT be returned.
 8. Protests originating after completion of League play must be submitted to the Baseball Director or his representative immediately after the protested game is complete.
 9. Decisions of The American Legion Baseball Committee will be final and are not subject to appeal to any other body of The American Legion unless it can be proved that the decisions are in direct violation of National Rules. Any appeal to the National Director of American Legion Baseball must be submitted through The American Legion Baseball Director. The American Legion Baseball Director will forward the appeal without delay.
- B. Requests for interpretation of rules shall be made in writing to The American Legion Baseball Director. The Baseball

Director will furnish interpretations in writing. E-mail shall be considered to meet the requirements of “in writing.” No rule interpretations will be made by telephone or in personal conversations.

Rule 10: Umpires

A. Umpire Selection

1. Umpires for regular season baseball games shall be drawn from a list approved by the Baseball Committee.
2. Umpires shall not, without prior approval from the Baseball Director, officiate in Legion Baseball games in the town or city in which they reside for games in which they have relatives playing.
3. All umpires participating in the S. C. American Legion Baseball Program will adhere to and be under the jurisdiction of the Baseball Director and Baseball Committee. The Baseball Director and Baseball Committee shall have power to replace or dismiss from the program any umpire for conduct or actions deemed detrimental to the operation, principles, rules, and functions of The American Legion Baseball Program.
4. Umpire fees and mileage rates to be negotiated with each team. Recommended not to exceed \$120.00 per umpire.
5. Umpires' fee shall be paid prior to the start of a game.

B. Umpire Responsibilities

1. **The Umpire in Charge (UIC) is under jurisdiction of the field from the moment they step on the field until they step off the field.**
2. Umpires are to hold a plate meeting no more than 5 minutes before scheduled first pitch unless otherwise coordinated with site manager prior to the game.
3. Umpires shall allow and stand at the plate for The Code of Sportsmanship and National Anthem prior to every game unless otherwise coordinated with the site manager.
4. All Umpires must know and uphold the official rules of the game for each Division of American Legion Baseball
5. Umpires have the authority to maintain the game and sportsmanship per the American Legion Baseball rules.
6. All Coaches and Players MUST adhere to all directives by the umpire crew.
7. Umpires have the sole authority to restrict or eject Player, Coach, Staff Member, or FAN at their Discretion.
8. Umpires must submit an ejection report at <https://scalb.org> following the game (League Office Tab)
9. UIC must report any game played under protest immediately following the game to SCALB League officials.
10. UIC must coordinate with site director and report to League Director any suspended game prior to Both Teams leaving the field of play.
11. Umpires MUST enforce that ALL coaches in All Divisions of American Legion Baseball are REQUIRED to wear a hard hat to coach bases and uniform pants to be on the playing field. This includes standing on the line for the Code of Sportsmanship and The National Anthem. Coaches not in uniform are restricted to the dugout. Coaches without a hard hat are NOT permitted in the Coaches box.
12. In the event of a Pitch Count discrepancy the UIC is to coordinate with both Coaches using the Pitch Tracker at <https://scalb.org> to verify a pitcher's eligibility according to SCALB Rule 7.I

C. State Tournament Umpire Selection:

The SCALB baseball committee will have the responsibility to find deserving umpires in the state who are interested in officiating the state tournament. It is suggested that these umpires' selections are representative of every region in the state and that they have officiated SC American Legion games during the regular season of the current year. It is requested that each league committeeman send the names of two umpires that they recommend to the Umpire Committee Chairman. These recommendations should show the names, contact information, the associations they work with, the number of years as an umpire, and the level that they are certified to call. These names will be placed on a list for consideration.

All umpires for State Tournament Games will be assigned by the umpire committee.

Rule 11: Sportsmanship

- ### A. Conduct: All Players, Coaches, Staff, and Fans are expected to adhere to the American Legion Code of Conduct at all times.
1. FOUL LANGUAGE of any sort will not be tolerated, any offense is subject to immediate ejection from the game and will serve an additional 1 game suspension.
 2. CHANTING, RIDICULE, TAUNTING or any NEGATIVE comments directed at an opposing team will result in an immediate dugout warning for the offending team. Any recurrence will result in the ejection of the offender and that

person will serve an additional 1 game suspension. A 3rd offense will result in the ejection of both the offender and the offending team's Head Coach, and they will serve an additional 1 game suspension.

B. Social Media:

1. SCALB will not tolerate "Cyber Bullying" or Negative and Critical social media Posts about any SCALB Team, Player, Coach, Umpire, League Official, or Volunteer. Any American Legion Baseball participant found in violation will receive a written warning. A second violation will result in a 1 game suspension.
2. Any complaints, suggestions, AND CRITICISM is welcomed by the committee. Please submit in writing using the Question, Comment, Complaint link at scalb.org or email to scalbofficial@gmail.com. The Committee will review and respond in 48 hours.

Rule 12: Senior American Legion Baseball

- A. Leagues: The State will be divided equally into Leagues with geographic considerations. Each League with eight teams or more may divide into Divisions.
- B. League Play: Senior Teams MUST play a minimum of 12 League games. All leagues competing in League play MUST play every team in League. Leagues competing in Division play may play only Divisional games.
- C. Playoffs: The number of teams advancing to postseason will be decided by the committee based on the number of teams AND consideration of that season's calendar.
- D. The State Tournament: will be an eight-team double elimination tournament.

2026 S.C. American Legion Senior Playoff Format

Playoff Team Selection:

6 League Format:

18 Teams Advance to postseason – Teams will be reseeded 1-9 Upper/lower

If even number of teams in each League Top 3 advance, lowest 4 seeded teams will play Wild Card game.

If leagues have an uneven number of teams Top 3 advance, #3 and #4 seeds from larger leagues will play Wild Card game.

Playoff Round:

A Best of 3 series will be played.

Home/Away/Home Format *May be adjusted with approval of League Director

Seeding is based on team records and statistics from League games.

State Tournament:

8 Team Double Elimination Tournament

Teams seeded 1-4 Upper/Lower based on team records and statistics from League games AND Playoff Round combined.

High Seed = HOME *Unless previous match up in State Tournament is unavoidable – Head-to-Head will supersede

Tie-Breaker Format:

Tiebreaker #1 - Win %

Tiebreaker #2 - Head-to-Head

Tiebreaker #3 - Run Allowed

Tiebreaker #4 - Run Differential

Tiebreaker #5 - Coin Flip

In the event of a multi team tie each tiebreaker will be applied in order until one team remains after all others have been eliminated

Playoff Rules:

- All play-off and tournament games that are halted for any reason will be played as suspended games. (Finish all games.)
- 3 Man Umpire Crew will be assigned for all Senior Legion Playoff games.
- Home field will be awarded to Higher seeded team *If teams are seeded the same then Tiebreaker will be applied*
- Any team forfeiting playoffs MAY be replaced by committee selection. The committee will use availability, league record, and team locations in making its decision.

Rule 13: State Champion

- A. The State Championship team will be certified to National Headquarters of The American Legion for participation in regional play conducted under the supervision of the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion.
- B. By action of the Department Executive Committee on February 14, 1945, the Schwartz Junior Baseball trophy was accepted as the Official Trophy to be awarded annually to the Post sponsoring the State Championship Team. This trophy will become the permanent possession of the Post winning the state championship annual tournament.
- C. By action of the Department Executive Committee on March 14, 1966, the John Ratterree Trophy will be presented to the player selected as the “Most Valuable Player” in the State Championship Series.
- D. By action of the Department Executive Committee on March 20, 1973, the Abe Fennell Trophy will be presented to the player selected as the “Best Sportsman” in the State Championship Series.
- E. By action of the Department Executive Committee on June 25, 1982, the J. Maude Burnett Trophy will be presented to the player selected as the “Outstanding Pitcher” in the State Championship Series.
- F. By action of the Department Baseball Committee on November 11, 2007, the Runner-up in the State Championship Series will receive The American Legion Baseball Runner-up Trophy.

Rule 14: Junior American Legion Specific Rules

- A. Junior Legion Divisions
 - 1. Junior Legion Baseball may be split into two divisions if approved by the Committeeman for that League.
 - 2. The Junior Legion AAA classification shall be entered at registration for Junior teams who have players born between 1/1/2009 – 1/1/2013. (17U)
 - 3. The Junior Legion AA classification shall be entered at registration for Junior teams who have players born in between 8/1/2010 – 1/1/2013.
 - 4. A Double Elimination State Tournament will be held for the Junior AA Division.
 - 5. Playoffs and a State Tournament will be held for the Junior Legion AAA Division.
 - 6. Dual Roster Players: Teams in the Junior Divisions may carry unlimited dual roster players. These players must appear and be eligible on both Junior AAA and Junior AA team State certified roster and/or National form 1 if on final 18-man roster.
- B. Rules of Play
 - 1. All South Carolina American Legion baseball rules apply to Junior AAA, Junior AA, and Junior A. Including the rules listed in the American Legion Baseball National Rulebook.
 - 2. Unless otherwise indicated under rule Eleven, all Junior League games, including playoff and State Tournament games, will be played by NFHS (Federation) playing rules, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Ten-run rule - The game will end any time after 5 innings, or after 4 ½ innings when a team is ten or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.
 - b. Courtesy runners - The pitcher and/or catcher may have a courtesy runner.
 - c. Re-entry - Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, including a player who was the designated hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup.
 - d. Designated hitter (DH) - A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game.
- C. Exceptions to NFHS Rules of Play
 - 1. The following exceptions to the NFHS playing rules shall apply:
 - a. Junior Legion shall utilize American Legion Baseball pitching rules.
 - b. Junior Legion shall not utilize the “fifteen-run rule.” In other words, Junior games will ***not*** end any time after 3 innings, or after 2 ½ innings when a team is fifteen or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat: and
 - c. All Junior playoff and State Tournament games must be completed, unless the ten-run rule applies.
 - d. The use of a one-way communication device between a coach in the dugout and a team’s catcher for the purpose of calling pitches is not permitted.

e. Coaches are required to wear helmets on the bases.

2. Any exceptions to the NFHS rules of play must be approved by the South Carolina American Legion Baseball Committee.

D. Umpires

1. All Junior League umpires MUST be assigned by an APPROVED SCALB Umpire assignor.
2. For information on Approved Assignors please contact SCALB UIC.
3. Umpires shall not officiate games in which they have relatives playing.

E. Playoffs

1. Sixteen (16) teams from the AAA division will advance to the postseason, selected proportionally from each of the AAA leagues.
2. Playoff seedings and matchups will be determined by the Baseball Committee.
3. Junior playoff games may not begin prior to the listed start date without approval of the Baseball Committee.
4. The first round of the Junior playoffs will be a best-of-three format.
5. All Playoff games MUST complete 7 innings.
6. Any suspended playoff games suspended will be completed as follows: Before 4.5 innings complete will be resumed at the location of the suspended game. After completion of 4.5 innings will be resumed prior to the start of the next game at the scheduled location.

F. State Tournament

1. AAA State Tournament

- a. AAA State Tournament will be an eight (8) team double elimination format. Day 1 and Day 2 will be played at the higher seed's home field. Days 3, 4, and 5 will be played at a single location.
- b. The Host site for Days 3, 4, and 5 of the Junior AAA American Legion State Tournament will be pre-determined by the Baseball Committee before each season.
- c. Teams, Posts, Municipalities, School Districts, and Non-Profit Organizations may submit a request for proposal to host the tournament each year. RFP's are due by 10/31 of each year.
- d. Proposals will be considered and awarded based on viability, central location, economic impact, and proposal.

2. AA State Tournament

- a. The AA State Tournament will have no host team
- b. All games will be played at the higher seed location
- c. A neutral site will be considered for the championship game

G. National Junior Tournament

There will be no Nationally supervised post-season tournament for the Junior Legion Baseball Program.

H. Junior Team and Player Trophies

The following team and player trophies will be awarded each year:

1. State Championship Plaque – Schwartz Trophy.
2. State Championship Runner-Up Plaque.
3. Most Valuable Player – John Ratterree Trophy.
4. Outstanding Pitcher – J. Maude Trophy; and
5. Best Sportsmanship – Abe Fennell Trophy.

I. Protests

All Junior Baseball protests shall be filed utilizing the same procedures prescribed for the Senior Legion Baseball Program.

J. Baseball Committee

The State Director and Baseball Committee shall perform all functions necessary for the conduct of the Baseball Program in accordance with National and Department rules.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT BASEBALL COMMITTEE**

LEAGUE OFFICE

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**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
AND
AMERICANISM COMMISSION CHAIRMAN**

103 Legion Plaza Rd, Columbia, SC 29210

Department Commander
James Rabon

National Executive Committeeman
Jim Hawk

Department Adjutant
Bob Renner

Americanism Commission Chairman
Department 1st Vice Commander
Jack Lonergan

DISCLAIMER:

Any errors or omissions in these rules will be resolved by the Department Baseball Committee.

National rules state: Competition of American Legion Baseball will follow the official baseball rules as authorized by the Commissioner of Major League Baseball and published by the Sporting News Rule Book and rules authorized by the National Americanism Commission of The American Legion