



TUCSON AREA "A" AMERICAN LEGION

2017 LEAGUE RULES + POLICIES

*The following rules and policies are written to supplement and add to the provisions of the
2017 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULE BOOK*

**TUCSON AREA "A" AMERICAN LEGION
PO Box 89304
Tucson, Arizona 85752**

PURPOSE OF AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

American Legion Baseball is the oldest and most disciplined amateur baseball program in the country and is the only program with a direct continuing relationship with Major League Baseball. Each year the American Legion Baseball World Series champion team is the guest of Major League Baseball at its Fall Classic in October.

The American Legion, an organization comprised of veterans who have served in the the United States armed forces honorably during times of war or declared conflict, and those veterans family members, conducts its national baseball program with a central goal: To help develop the next generation of leaders for this country through the teamwork, personal discipline, and life lessons taught during baseball competition. It is the expectation of the manager and coaching staff to develop these positive qualities throughout the season.

CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

The Code of Sportsmanship will be recited by the players, coaches and umpires prior to all regular season and tournament games. The HOME TEAM manager will identify a player who will recite the code. Upon completion of the reading of the code, the pre-game meeting at home plate with the coaches and umpires will take place.

If the National Anthem is played or sung, it follows immediately after the reading of the Code of Sportsmanship.

Any individual who hesitates to returning to the dugout in an attempt to engage in a "national anthem standoff" will be ejected from the game by the umpires and suspended from playing in an American Legion Baseball game until such time as the league Chairman conducts a hearing into this unsportsmanlike act. An individual may be reinstated at the discretion of the league chairman.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

The HOME TEAM player will recite the following:

I WILL KEEP THE RULES

I WILL KEEP FAITH WITH MY TEAMMATES

I WILL KEEP MY TEMPER

I WILL KEEP MYSELF FIT

I WILL KEEP A STOUT HEART IN DEFEAT

I WILL KEEP MY PRIDE UNDER IN VICTORY

I WILL KEEP A SOUND SOULL, A CLEAN MIND AND A HEALTHY BODY

PLAYING REGULATIONS

American Legion Baseball and the Tucson Area "A" American Legion League competition is played in accordance with the rules set forth by the National Americanism Commission of the American Legion. Rules established by American Legion Baseball 2017 Rule Book are supplemented by these Area "A" league rules

In the event of a contradiction between the League Rules and American Legion Baseball 2017 Rule Book, the American Legion Baseball 2017 Rule Book takes precedence

1.0 TEAM COMPSITION

1.1 RECRUITING: The Department of Arizona and Tucson Area "A" American Legion League utilizes Recruiting Plan "B" (Base School) for all teams (See Rule 4)

Each team designates one (1) high school as the team's "Base School."

A team must have at minimum five (5) players enrolled in, or graduated from its base school on it's roster

Total team enrollment does not exceed 5,000 students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades

Offical school enrollment statisticis accepted by National American Legion Baseball is through www.high-schools.com

1.2 MAXIMUM ROSTER: 18 players per team

1.3 AGE CUTOFF Player turning age 20 at any time during the 2017 calendar year is not eligible for participation I the league.

1.4 COLLEGE PLAYERS: Player that played on a team in 2016 and is currently attending college, must return and play for the same team in 2017.

1.5 ROSTER REPLACEMENT: Not permitted once registration has been completed and the rosters have been uploaded onto the team account through the American Legion web site. The only permissable way a player is replaced on a roster is; 1) Player leaving joins the armed forces or 2) Player passes away.

1.6 FORM 76 TRANSFER WAIVER: Players that reside close to a legion team and is not part of the team's base school is permitted to play on any other legion team, but the team manager's that fall in line with the "nearer team" policy will be required to sign off on Form 76 To determine a player's "nearer team" compare the shortes driving distance between the player's domicile and a team's base school as calculated by MapQuest (www.mapquest.com)

1.7 TEAM ROSTER: Upon completion of the league registration period, the league player compliance officer will upload all player information onto each team account through the legion website in creating the final team roster. COACHES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER PLAYER INFORMATION ONTO THE TEAM ROSTER.

1.8 RESIDENCY: All players must legally reside in the United State of America. Individuals that reside in other countries are not eligible to play American Legion Baseball.

2.0 PLAYER REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS

All players wishing to play in the Area "A" American Legion League are required to register with the league in person and are to provide the following documents at the time of registration:

- 1 FORM #2 This form can be downloaded from team account on the national legion website. Player and parents are to complete and sign both sides of this form.
- 2 PHOTO SCHOOL ID Player must bring either original (copies will be made) or a copy of his 2016-17 school photo identification card.
- 3 PROOF OF BIRTH For new players to the league a copy of the players proof of birth document is required. Acceptable proof's of birth include:
 - 1 An original record of birth or a copy from the state that the player was born in.
 - 2 US Government issued passport
 - 3 US Government issued military ID card or dependent ID card.
 - 4 State issued driver's license

The league player compliance officer will make copies of any original documents presented at the time of registration and given back to the player/parent.

The last for a player to register to play in the 2017 league is Sunday, May 28th. After this date no further registrations will be accepted.

- 4 REGISTRATION FEE: Players will be required to pay at the time of registration established registration fee. There are no scholarships issued.

Player that does not have the required documents and/or does not pay at the time of registration, the registration will be not be approved until 100% compliance on the requirements as stated above.

3.0 CONDUCT OF COACHES/PLAYERS

It is fully expected that all game participants will conduct themselves in a manner reflecting the highest standards of sportsmanship and control as outlined in the Code of Sportsmanship.

Conduct that occurs before, during, or after a game (post-game ejection) that results in an umpire ejecting an individual may result in the individual's suspension from additional games.

Coach and/or player that gets ejected from a game must immediately leave the playing field and go directly to the parking lot--out of sight--out of mind.

Umpires will provide the league a written report on the ejection. The league chairman will review the ejection report to determine if the behavior of the individual that caused the ejection warrants additional disciplinary action in the form of game(s) suspension.

Individual that receives a suspension is not permitted to be at the park in any capacity.

6.0 GAME LENGTH

6.1 REGULAR SEASON

- A Games are nine (9) innings in length with NO time limit
- B Games tied after nine (9) innings are official as a tie. No extra innings are played.

6.2 POST SEASON

- A All games are nine (9) innings in length with NO time limit.
- B All tournament games must have a winner. Tie games are played per Official Baseball Rules until a winner is determined.

REGULATION GAME/CALLED GAMES

6.3 Games that are affected by weather and/or field conditions become unplayable must reach regulation (4 1/2-5 full innings if the home team is behind) in to be an official game..

6.4 Game that DOES NOT reach regulation and is called due to weather and/or unsafe field conditions, the game is re-scheduled and played from the beginning.

RUN RULE

6.5 Team ahead by ten (10) or more runs after 6 1/2-7 innings the game will end and become official.

7.0 PITCHING

7.1 All Official Baseball Rules (OBR) pertaining to pitching and balks will be for all regular season and tournament games. NOTE: The new intentional walk rule adopted by Major League Baseball Official Baseball Rule, which allows a manager to signal to the home plate umpire that instead of throwing four pitches to just put the batter on base.

7.2 PITCH COUNT

MAXIMUM PITCHES IN GAME 120

REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)				
0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76 +

7.2.1 If the pitcher has reached the maximum number of pitches in game (120) while facing batter, the pitcher may complete pitching to the batter until the batter gets out or reaches base safely.

7.3 PITCH COUNT RECORDING PROCESS

7.3.1 Each team is responsible for maintaining the pitch count of BOTH team's pitchers through either Game Changer of the pitch count spreadsheet that is provided to all teams by the league.

7.3.2 Upon the completion of each 1/2 inning the pitch count recorders for both teams are to verify pitch counts for the pitchers that are in the game. If there is a discrepancy between the two teams, the difference between the pitch count will split in 1/2 and

become the official pitch count number. EXAMPLE: 9 pitches is a difference between the two pitch count recorders. 1/2 is 4.5, therefore in this instant 4 becomes the official pitch count record. NOTE: The umpires will not be involved nor responsible for any pitch count recording or disputes during a game.

7.3.3 **END OF GAME SUMMARY SHEET**

Upon the completion of each game, both team pitch count recorders will list the pitchers used in a game and their respective pitch count on the GAME SUMMARY SHEET.

Each team's GAME SUMMARY SHEET is to be signed by the opposing team either the manager of assistant coach.

The GAME SUMMARY SHEET can either be photo-text to 730-2506 or it can be scanned and emailed to the league (kinobbl@comcast.net) by 12 Noon the next day.

PENALTY:

- 1 Team not reporting the GAME SUMMARY SHEET to the league by 12 Noon the following day will be fined \$100 by the league
- 2 Team that does not report by 12 noon the next day and was the game's winning team, they will forfeit the win and fined \$100.
- 3 Inability to pay fine will result in the team forfeiting it's next scheduled game.

8.0 BATTING ORDER

8.1 REGULAR SEASON:

- 8.1.1 Teams will have the option of batting 9, 10 (EH) or 11 (2-EH) players during any regular season game.
- 8.1.2 EXTRA HITTER (EH)
 - 8.1.2A An EH may start the game in any position in the batting order.
 - 8.1.3B An EH may play defense in any inning.
- 8.1.3 When a team options to bat 10 or 11 players and an injury, illness, ejection or other cause forces a player out of the game in a situation where there is NO eligible substitute available an OUT is declared.
- 8.1.4 Each team must declare it's choice at the pre-game plate meeting. Once made, the chose is irrevocable.
- 8.1.5 Continuous batting order is NOT PERMITTED.
- 8.1.6 DH is not permitted for regular season play
- 8.1.7 No part of this batting order options alters the pitching requirements or pitching substitution restrictions. Example: A pitcher may leave and return to the pitching position only one time per inning.

8.2 AREA/STATE/REGIONAL/WORLD SERIES

- 8.2.1 Team can only bat nine (9) players that may include the Designated Hitter (DH) for the pitcher ONLY.

9.0 SUBSTITUTION**REGULAR SEASON**

- 9.1 Any of the starting players may withdraw and re-enter the game once provided that such player occupies the same batting position. A substitute that is withdrawn may not re-enter the game
- 9.2 All pitchers are governed under OBR 3.05 if withdrawn while on the mound pitching. The pitcher withdrawn while a batter or base runner may re-enter the game immediately. If the pitcher is removed from the game because of a second trip in the same inning, he may re-enter the game in any position with the exception of pitcher.
- 9.3 **THERE ARE NO COURTESY RUNNERS PERMITTED.**

AREA/STATE/REGIONAL/WORLD SERIES

- 9.4 There is no substitution re-entry. Once a player is removed from the line up, they are done for the remainder of the game.
- 9.5 **THERE IS NO COURTESY RUNNERS PERMITTED**

10.0 FORCE PLAY SLIDE RULE

- 10.1 On any force play, the runner must slide on the ground and in direct line between the two bases. It is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry through the base in the baseline extended.

EXCEPTION: A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the runner slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. Interference will not be called.

10.2 DEFINITIONS:

"On the ground" is defined as either a head first slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground

"Directly into base" is defined as the runner's entire body (feet, legs, trunk and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.

- 10.3 Contact with a fielder is legal and interference shall not be called if the runner makes a legal slide directly to the base and in the baseline extended.

10.4 ILLEGAL AND INTERFERENCE

- 10.4.1 The runner slides or runs out of the base line in the direction of the fielder and alters the play of the fielder (with or without contact).
- 10.4.2 Runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide and either makes contact or alters the play of the fielder.
- 10.4.3 The runner's raised leg makes contact higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position.
- 10.4.4 Runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg.
- 10.4.5 Runner illegally slides towards or contact the fielder even if the fielder makes no attempt to throw to complete a play

PENALTY

- A. If the runner's slide or collision is flagrant, the runner shall be called out and ejected from the game.
- B. Less than 2 outs, the batter-runner, as well as the interfering runner shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.
- C. With 2 outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out.

11.0 MALICIOUS CONTACT

Any player who, in the JUDGMENT of the umpire, maliciously contacts another player is automatically ejected, and if the offender is a runner, is declared out.

Runners have the following options to avoid malicious and intentional collisions:

- A. Slide directly to the player or away from the catch to avoid making contact.
- B. Attempt to "dance" around the tag.
- C. Give oneself up.
- D. Return to the base from where they originated from.

Malicious contact penalty will be enforced whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. Any player ejected for malicious contact shall immediately leave the field and shall be suspended minimum one (1) game.

12.0 DUGOUTS

12.1 THIRD BASE DUGOUT---is the designated dugout for the game's HOME TEAM.

Exception: Are games played at high school fields that is the home field for a participating team in the league shall occupy the dugout they traditional use during their school season.

12.2 NO OUTSIDE BUCKETS, CHAIRS OR TEAM PERSONNEL outside the dugout during a game.

1ST VIOLATION

Team warning by the umpires

SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS

Individual in violation is ejected from the game

12.3 NO BAT BOYS/GIRLS PERMITTED IN THE DUGOUT.

13.0 HOME TEAM

13.1 Home team shall occupy the third base dugout.

13.2 Home team provides the game's official scorekeeper. At the pre-game plate meeting the

13.3 home team manager is to identify to the umpires and opposing team coach the location of the official scorer..

14.0 LINE UP CARD

The line up card is mandatory for all games. Card is to list the uniform number, last name and first initial of every player. The defensive positions for those starters is to be listed.

The umpires will not start a game without a completed line up card.

Player(s) that are omitted on the line up card are permitted to be added without penalty.

15.0 PRE-GAME DECORUM

15.1 Teams are to conduct pre-game warm up on the side. There is no defensive warm up on the prepared game field prior to a game permitted.

15.2 Pitchers are to warm up in bullpens (if available) or on the side. Pitchers are not permitted to warm up on the prepared pitching mound.

15.3 Batting practice is not permitted on the game field. Soft toss is permitted on the side. Hitting baseballs into a fence is not permitted.

16.0 UNIFORMS (PLAYERS)

- 16.1 All players must be in full baseball uniform that includes matching colored jersey with a number on the back, baseball pants, and cap. (Visors are not permitted to be worn by the players).
- 16.2 No identical numbers permitted.
- 16.3 Player wearing a jersey without a number will not be permitted to play in the game. Putting tape or any other material on the jersey to create a number is illegal and not permitted. CLARIFICATION: Players that are not in matching colored jerseys or have identical uniform numbers, the game continues to be played, the umpires make a note and submit a report to the league regarding a uniform violation. The league will send a first time warning to the team in violation. Any subsequent violations of the uniform policy during the season will result in the team begin fined \$100 by the league.

AREA/STATE/REGIONAL/WORLD SERIES

Players must be in matching colored jerseys with a number on the back and American Legion emblem attached to the left sleeve of the jersey.

IDENTICAL NUMBERS --Manager will need to decide who sits and who plays the game.

PLAYER WEARING A JERSEY WITH NO NUMBER---NOT PERMITTED TO PLAY

17.0 COACH DRESS

REGULAR SEASON

Coaches are to dress appropriately, neat and professional. They are representing American Legion Baseball. Coaches can dress casual during the regular season that includes dress shorts, jersey or pullover jacket, baseball cap.

Coaches are required to be in full baseball uniform that matches the players. Includes jersey with a number on the back and the American Legion patch affixed to the left sleeve of the jersey, baseball pants and cap.

Pullover jacket is permitted with the American Legion patch affixed to the jacket.

18.0 GAME BASEBALLS

Each team will be issued 3 dozen game baseballs prior to the start of the season.

Teams are required to provide 2 new game baseballs to home plate umpire at the pre-game plate meeting.

If additional game baseballs are required during the game, teams will take alternating turns. starting with the Home Team in providing good used baseballs. Umpires have the authority to not accept any baseball that is not in good condition.

If teams use up their allotted 3 dozen game baseballs, they can purchase additional dozen baseballs from the league.

Teams are responsible for tracking down and returning foul balls that go out on their side of play.

After the game has concluded, the home plate umpire will drop whatever number of baseballs he has on him for the teams to divide up.

19.0 SAFETY

BATTING HELMETS (DUAL EAR FLAP)

Required to be worn by players while waiting to hit, at bat, as a base runner, as a coach, shagging foul balls within the field of play and providing protection to a pitcher and catcher that is warming on the side within the playing field during a live ball.

Chrome helmets are NOT PERMITTED.

Tape that is affixed to any part of the helmet shall be removed from the game by the umpires.

Cracks in the helmet, thin to no pads on the inside of the helmet will result in the helmet being removed from the game by the umpire.

Adult coaches must wear a batting helmet while on the coaching lines. The helmet does not required to be a double ear flap helmet

CATCHER EQUIPMENT

Catchers are required to wear a safety helmet, throat protector and protective cup. Skull helmet caps are permitted.

Catcher mask must have a built-in or attachable throat guard.

JEWELRY

Is permitted to be worn by players.

TOBACCO:

The use of any form of tobacco by a player, coach, manager or umpire while on the playing field, benches, in the bullpen or dugouts is prohibited. Any individual violating this rule will be ejected from the game.

LIGHTING SAFETY

Lightning that is 5 miles or less requires a game to be halted by the umpires and requires all team personnel to immediately leave the field and go to the parking lot and their vehicles.

The umpires will wait 30 minutes before play can be resumed. If another lightning strikes occurs while waiting the initial 30 minutes, the game will be called by the umpires and if the game has reached regulation it will be official

If the game is resumed, the teams will be called back to the field, be permitted 7 minutes to warm up before the game is resumed. If at game time a team does not have 9 players, they will forfeit the game.

REID PARK LIGHTNING RULE: A game that is delayed due to lightning will cause the city to turn off the lights for the remainder of the evening. Therefore, any game that is not an official game, will be defined as a suspended game and will be scheduled by the league to be resumed from the stoppage play and played until completed.

WEATHER/FIELD CONDITIONS

Game that is halted by weather, the game will be suspended for maximum 30 minutes. The umpires have the authority to call a game before the 30 minute limit. If a game has reached regulation and is called due to weather or unplayable field conditions, the game is official

If the game is resumed, the teams will be called back to the field, be permitted 7 minutes to warm up before the game is resumed. If at game time a team does not have 9 players, they will forfeit the game.

REID PARK ON BATTER ON DECK

Due to the close proximity of the on-deck batter to home plate at the Reid Park fields, the on-deck batter from the team in the first base dugout and with a right handed batter up, is to go to the third base dugout on-deck area..

Batter in the on-deck area on the third base dugout and a left handed batter is up, the on-deck batter is to move over to the first base dugout on-bat area.

RULES TO WAIVER OR ALTER THE PLAYING RULES BETWEEN COACHES AND/OR UMPIRES IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.