

The American Legion  
Department of Virginia  
15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Districts Baseball League D  
Operating Policy 2022

1. The American Legion Code of Sportsmanship shall be recited prior to the start of the game. It is only recited once during a doubleheader.
2. The Executive Committee at the Spring Conference may amend these policies before the season begins not during or after the current season.
3. National American Legion rules and Department policies will govern in a conflict.
4. The League Chairman will determine how the season schedule is played each year.
5. Each year the number of teams playing in the District league changes, this gives the League Chairman authority to make how the League will be divided and the schedule will be made.
6. The home team shall be responsible for notifying umpires; opposing teams and the League Chairman two hours (time permitting) prior to game time if a rainout occurs.
7. The home team shall report the game results to the League Chairman within 48 hours. Failure to report these results may result in forfeit by the home team.
8. The home team is responsible for providing umpires VHSL certified or higher, home team shall provide American Legion approved baseballs for the game(s).
9. Teams (Home or Away) that fail to show up for the game without a 24-hour notice to the opposing team and League Chairman will be fined the cost of the umpires. The fine will be paid to the Chairman. The Chairman will disperse the fine to the opposing team.
  - a. Teams failing to reschedule games and continue to cancel games lacking reasonable circumstance will be ineligible for the tournament play by recommendation of the League Baseball Chairman and approval by the 16<sup>th</sup> District Commander.
10. Forfeit: If a team cannot put 9 legally rostered players on the field at the scheduled game time, then that team will forfeit the game.
  - a. Any team that has three forfeits will not be eligible for League Tournament Play and may be suspended by the League Chairman or District Commander for the duration of the season.
11. No game or games shall be canceled or rescheduled without notification or approval by the League Chairman. All games to be rescheduled, will be rescheduled within 3 days and reported to the League District Chairman. Games not schedule within 3 days, will be scheduled by the League Chairman at the earliest open date for both teams.

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12. All single Senior games to be used to calculate league standings will be scheduled as 9 inning games. All single Junior games will be scheduled as 7 inning games. All double headers shall be two 7 inning games. A game is considered a double header if a single team plays either the same or different League opponent on the same day. The slaughter rule (ten runs) is in effect during the regular season.
- In a 9-inning game, the slaughter rule is in effect starting in the 7th inning
  - In a 7-inning game, the slaughter rule is in effect starting in the 5th inning
  - During periods of extreme heat, the League Chairman may direct and team Managers may agree to play a single 7 inning game.

Note 1: The Designated Hitter may be used for the pitcher only.

Note 2: The Designated Hitter may be used in the both the regular season and tournament games.

Note 3: Junior teams may replace a starting player into the lineup after his replacement player has been removed. The substitute player must have a minimum of 1 at bat and 1 defensive innings prior to the starting player being re-entered.

13. Scheduling can begin at any time; however, all teams MUST have completed League schedule no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>.
14. All players and coaches must be in full uniform with patches for all American Legion games and wearing the proper helmet.
- During periods of extreme heat, the District Chairman or team Managers may permit players to wear unmarked (patch or player number) team under-jerseys.
15. Pre-game infield/outfield warm-up will begin 30 minutes prior to game start times, conditions permitting.
16. The League Tournament: The tournament site and how the teams will be seeded will be set by the coaches, the District Commander, the District Vice-Commander and the Baseball Committee Chairman; shall be played at the home of the higher seeded team until the semi-finals and the finals, which shall be hosted by \_\_\_\_\_. All tournament games will be 7 innings. Team Seeding will be determined by results of League regular season games. The top 4 seeds will participate in a double elimination tournament.
17. Teams not playing a minimum of 8 games League games will not be eligible for Department Qualifying Round Tournament play.

American Legion Baseball, Department of Virginia: All teams in the Department of Virginia, American Legion Baseball Program, must play a minimum of 10 games in American Legion competition to be eligible for tournament play beyond the League level (Department tournaments).

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18. Computing District Standings: The first 2 scheduled games for District opponents will count for District Standings. Games WON plus Games FFTW divided by the TOTAL number of games equals the percentage WON. The TOTAL number of league games will include the first home and the first away games scheduled and played or not played. The Total number of games will include forfeits and games not played. Teams playing all scheduled District games will be given advantage for seeding purposes over teams not rescheduling and playing games.
19. Post season tournament Team Seeding tiebreaker shall be:
- Team with greater number of games FFT will lose tiebreaker
  - Head to head results
  - Games played and games WON
  - Record against next highest seed
  - Least number of runs scored by the higher seed
20. Completion of game: A game is considered a regulation game after 5 innings have been completed. The field umpire can decide to call a game for curfew, inclement weather or the field becoming unplayable. The winner of the game will be determined by the team that leads at the time the game is called.
- A game not having completed 4 innings will be declared a “no-game”. A no game should be rescheduled on the next available date for both teams. If no scheduled date is available, then the League Chairman will cancel the game and no-game will be added to either team’s record.
21. If a regulation game is called, the game becomes a suspended game until 7 innings (Junior Division) or 9 innings (Senior Division) have been completed. The suspended game must be played on the next available date for both teams. The Home team will be responsible to provide the field and umpires for the suspended game. If no scheduled date is available, then the League Chairman will call the game with the winner determined by the team with the lead at the time the game is called. If a tie-game cannot be rescheduled, then the League Chairman will call the game and the game be recorded as a tie.
22. Ejections:
- Any manager, coach or player that is ejected from a game must leave the confines of the ballpark immediately, have no further contact or make coaching decisions for the remainder of the game.
  - Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game will be ineligible to participate in his teams next scheduled game.

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- c. Any manager, coach or player that is ejected for the second time in a regular season will not be allowed to participate in League any additional regular season game or post-season games without the express permission of the League Chairman.
- d. Any manager, coach or player that is ejected for fighting loses his right to participate in League ballgames for the remainder of the season.
- e. All ejections must be reported to the League Chairman within 24 hours by the team the ejected member is on.
- f. If, after further review, a team member deserves more than a one game suspension that decision will be administered by the League District Chairman.

These Policies amended by the 16th District Executive Committee February 26, 2022