American Legion Baseball
An Investment in the Youth of America
DEPARTMENT OF MONTANA

MONTANA/ALBERTA
2017
RULE BOOK

The Spirit Our Youth Learn Today
Is The Spirit Our Leaders Will Use Tomorrow

www.montanalegionbaseball.org
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARTICLE I - NAME - PURPOSE – MANAGEMENT</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2. THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3. MANAGEMENT.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARTICLE II - INSURANCE - LIABILITY – MEDICAL</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1. INSURANCE</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2. NATIONAL FORM #2.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3. FIRST AID.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 4. LACERATION OR OPEN WOUNDS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 5. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 6. PARK LIABILITIES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 7. MOTEL LIABILITIES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1. LEAGUES</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2. CLASS AA LEAGUE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3. CLASS A LEAGUE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 4. CLASS B LEAGUE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 5. ENROLLMENT</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 6. ANNUAL MEETING</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARTICLE IV - TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION - NATIONAL RULE 6</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1. REGISTRATION (Base School &amp; Sponsor)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2. PLAYER &amp; TEAM REGISTRATION (National Form 1 &amp; 2)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3. DUAL PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 4. TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 5. REFUNDING OF FEES</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF BASEBALL OFFICERS</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1. GENERAL CHAIRMAN. (COMMITTEE)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2. VICE CHAIRMAN CLASS AA. (COMMITTEE)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3. VICE CHAIRMAN CLASS A. (COMMITTEE)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 4. DISTRICT CHAIRMAN.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 5. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARTICLE VI - VIOLATIONS - FORFEITURES - CANCELLATIONS</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1. RULE VIOLATIONS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2. FORFEITURE</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Page i
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**ARTICLE VII - SCHEDULING**  .............................................................................................................. 7
- Section 1. CONFERENCE GAMES........................................................................................................ 7
- Section 2. INNINGS................................................................................................................................. 7
- Section 3. DOUBLE HEADERS............................................................................................................... 8
- Section 4. POSTPONED GAMES. ......................................................................................................... 8
- Section 5. SEASON SCHEDULE. ......................................................................................................... 8
- Section 6. NON-SANCTIONED PLAY.................................................................................................... 8

**ARTICLE VIII – PROTESTING GAMES.** .............................................................................................. 8
- Section 1. NOTIFICATION. .................................................................................................................... 8
- Section 2. FILING PROCEDURE. ........................................................................................................... 8
- Section 3. UMPIRES JUDGEMENT. ...................................................................................................... 9
- Section 4. AUTHORITY AND APPEALS (NATIONAL RULE - 10) ..................................................... 9

**ARTICLE IX - TIE BREAKING** ........................................................................................................... 9
- Section 1. PROCEDURE ....................................................................................................................... 9

**ARTICLE X - PLAYING REGULATIONS** .............................................................................................. 10
- Section 1. BASEBALL RULES. ............................................................................................................ 10
- Section 3. COLLISION RULE. (See NATIONAL RULE 1(H) and the NCAA Rule Book
  for interpretations.) ............................................................................................................................... 10
- Section 4. FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE (See NATIONAL RULE 1(J).) .................................................. 10
- Section 5. BATTER'S BOX RULE (See NATIONAL RULE 1(C)) ............................................................ 10
- Section 6. UNIFORMS (See NATIONAL RULE 1(V).) ........................................................................... 10
- Section 7. MANDATORY MEETING TO SCHEDULE CONFERENCE GAMES ..... 10
- Section 7. ADULT SUPERVISION........................................................................................................ 11
- Section 8. GAMES IN ONE DAY. ......................................................................................................... 11
- Section 9. EQUIPMENT. ....................................................................................................................... 11
- Section 10. AUTHORIZED MEMBERS ON PLAYING FIELD. ............................................................ 12
- Section 11. AUTHORIZED UMPIRES ON THE PLAYING FIELD. ...................................................... 12
- Section 12. OBLIGATIONS OF THE HOME TEAM. ............................................................................. 12
- Section 13. OBLIGATIONS OF THE VISITING TEAM. ....................................................................... 13
- Section 14. TEN RUN RULE. ............................................................................................................... 13
- Section 15. LINE UP CARDS. .............................................................................................................. 13
- Section 15. INFIELD PRACTICES....................................................................................................... 13

**ARTICLE XI - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY** ................................................................................................. 13
- Section 1. AGE REQUIREMENTS. ......................................................................................................... 13
- Section 2. PLAYER'S DOMICILE (See NATIONAL RULE 2(B)) ........................................................... 13
- Section 3. AMATEUR STATUS. ............................................................................................................ 13
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 6. PLAN "A" RECRUITING - NATIONAL RULE 3................................. 13
Section 7. PLAN "B" RECRUITMENT- NATIONAL RULE 4............................. 14
Section 8. Team/Player Certification and Team Fees.................................... 14

ARTICLE XII - CONDUCT........................................................................... 14
Section 1. RULES....................................................................................... 14
Section 2. CORRECTIVE ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE............................... 15
Section 3. ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO AND FELONIES....................... 16
Section 4. CONDUCT BY SPECTATORS OR FANS....................................... 16

ARTICLE XIII - TOURNAMENTS................................................................. 16
Section 1. PROCEDURES........................................................................... 16
Section 2. AGREEMENT............................................................................. 16

CLASS AA STATE TOURNAMENT................................................................. 16
Section 1. CONVENTIONAL....................................................................... 16
Section 2. CLASS AA TOURNAMENT PRIORITY......................................... 17
Section 3. HOST RESPONSIBILITIES........................................................... 17
Section 4. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.................................................. 17
Section 5. GAMES.................................................................................... 17
Section 6. BRACKETING........................................................................... 17
Section 7. UMPIRES AND OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER................................. 17
Section 8. AWARDS.................................................................................. 17

CLASS AA REGIONAL TOURNAMENT......................................................... 18
Section 1. CONVENTIONAL....................................................................... 18
Section 2. RESPONSIBILITIES................................................................ 18

WORLD SERIES......................................................................................... 18
Section 1. CONVENTIONAL....................................................................... 18

CLASS A DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS........................................................... 18
Section 1. CONVENTIONAL....................................................................... 18
Section 2. SEEDING.................................................................................. 19
Section 3. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.................................................. 19
Section 4. HOST RESPONSIBILITIES........................................................... 19
Section 5. GAMES.................................................................................... 19
Section 6. BRACKETING AND SEEDING................................................... 19
Section 7. DISTRICT CHAIRMAN............................................................... 19
Section 8. UMPIRES.................................................................................. 20
Section 9.AWARDS.................................................................................... 20
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**CLASS A DISTRICT TOURNAMENT ROTATION** .................................. 20
Section 1. CONVENTIONAL. ................................................................. 20
Section 2. BIDDING .............................................................................. 20
Section 3. PAIRINGS & SEEDING ......................................................... 21
Section 3. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES ........................................... 21
Section 4. HOST RESPONSIBILITIES .................................................... 21
Section 5. GAMES ................................................................................. 21
Section 6. BRACKETING AND SEEDING ............................................ 21
Section 7. UMPIRES .............................................................................. 21
Section 8. AWARDS .............................................................................. 22
**CLASS A REGIONAL TOURNAMENT** .............................................. 22
Section 1. CONVENTIONAL ................................................................. 22
Section 2. BIDDING .............................................................................. 22
Section 3. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES ........................................... 22
Section 4. HOST RESPONSIBILITIES .................................................... 23
Section 5. GAMES ................................................................................. 23
Section 6. ENROLLMENT ...................................................................... 23
Section 7. UMPIRES .............................................................................. 23
Section 8. AWARDS .............................................................................. 23
Section 9. BRACKETING ................................................................. 23
Section 10. SEEDING ....................................................................... 23
FORWARD

TO: MANAGERS, COACHES, ADMINISTRATORS AND POST COMMANDERS

Since 1925, The American Legion has sponsored a nationwide youth baseball program. During these past eight decades, millions of young players have enjoyed playing hard nose baseball. The American Legion members have raised and spent millions of dollars in order for young players to learn the importance of teamwork, discipline, leadership and good sportsmanship. We have sponsored this program to give young players an opportunity to develop their skills, personal fitness and leadership qualities.

It is true that over half of the Major Leagues and 75% of college players, played American Legion Baseball. Former Baseball Commissioners Ueberroth and Vincent, as well as Dr. Bobby Brown, former President of the American League and Bill White, former President of the National League played American Legion Baseball. You will also find several former Legion players in the Hall of Congress; in the State Legislature and many more successful business leaders.

The purpose behind the sponsorship always has been to help develop America's youth that will someday step forward and become the future leaders. We hope you will have that same philosophy as you enter act with the players.

It is important to apply some common sense to any recruiting rule. Since 1925, American Legion Baseball has always operated under the premise of a local neighborhood or community team concept. We have always formulated our rules around recruiting players from the immediate area and not recruiting players from all over the state. That is why we have restrictions. These restrictions are not to prevent players from playing American Legion Baseball, but insuring every local player who tries out for a team is given more consideration than a player several communities away. From time to time, natural barriers, (mountains, rivers, lakes, etc.) make it impractical for a player to play for the next nearest team. The unique situations (only four have been granted in the past eight years) can be addressed and the rules modified by the Department Baseball Committee and the National Baseball Subcommittee. If a Team has a natural barrier which makes the nearest team rule impractical, then you should forward a written request to the Department Chairman for his approval and final approval from the National Baseball Subcommittee.

The Department (State) Baseball Committee has tremendous influence, authority and jurisdiction within their state. In 99 per cent of all protest, the State Baseball Committee is the final ruling authority. The Department Baseball Committee cannot overturn a National Appeals Board Ruling, but they can insert restriction in the rules.

These volunteers are responsible for protecting the safety of the players and fans, as well as to ensure the integrity of the program is protected. They are charged to ensure fair competition, set up tournament play, establish rules and operating procedures, handle interpretations and protest, and they do all this, literally year around with no pay and little thanks. When you read and study tour recruiting rules and interpretations you must remember that your State Baseball Committee has the authority to add more restrictive rules.
ARTICLE I - NAME - PURPOSE – MANAGEMENT

Section 1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION.

1. The official name of this organization shall be "The American Legion Baseball Association of the State of Montana and the province of Alberta, Canada," hereinafter called the "Association."

Section 2. THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE.

1. To inculcate in our youth a better understanding of the American way of life and to promote 100 per cent Americanism.
2. To instill in our youth a sincere desire to develop within themselves a feeling of citizenship, sportsmanship, loyalty and team spirit.
3. To aid in the advancement and development of the physical fitness of our youth.
4. To build for the Nation's future through our youth.

Section 3. MANAGEMENT.

1. The Montana/Alberta American Legion Baseball competition shall be played by the rules set forth and adopted by the National Americanism Commission and the American Legion of Montana and The Montana American Legion Baseball Committee which includes the Department Chairman, the Class AA and Class A Chairmen.
2. The Association shall be governed by the Department of Montana American Legion Baseball Committee; here-in-after called the "Committee."
3. The Committee shall verify the eligibility of players and teams. To perform all functions for the conduct of the American Legion Baseball program in the State of Montana and the Province of Alberta, Canada as promulgated by the National Americanism Commission and the Department of Montana American Legion.
4. The rules herein may be more restrictive than the National American Legion Baseball Rules. They are supplementary to, but are not intended to conflict with the official American Legion Baseball rules of the National Americanism Commission. The aims are to protect and stimulate competition; provide a medium that members of the Association may join under a common set of principles.

ARTICLE II - INSURANCE - LIABILITY – MEDICAL

Section 1. INSURANCE.

Every American Legion Baseball team must purchase both group liability and accident insurance from The American Legion's agent of record (S.A. Van Dyk). Coverage must be purchased prior to March 1st or the first tryout or practice, whichever becomes first. Montana teams who fail to purchase insurance from S. A. Van Dyk can be disqualified from any further competition.

1. Accident and liability insurance is available through S.A. Van Dyk Insurance, P.O. Box 4806, Oak Brook, Illinois 60522-4806, telephone: 1-800-323-7326. It should be purchased through the American Legion national team registration webpage at
Section 2. NATIONAL FORM #2.

1. Player and Parent/s or court appointed guardian shall properly complete and sign National form #2 before the start of any tryouts or practice.

2. Managers or coaches must have the original copy of National Form #2 in their possession at all times. A copy of all player Form 2’s must be sent to the Montana/Alberta General Chairman: by mail to Ron Edwards, 680 Sycamore Lane, Bozeman MT 59718, or by email (preferred) to mtlegionbaseball@gmail.com. Please put your team name and “Form 2s” in the subject line.

Section 3. FIRST AID.

1. Each team must have an appropriately supplied first aid kit at all games, practices, etc.

2. Coaches are required to have a current First Aid and CPR course.

Section 4. LACERATION OR OPEN WOUNDS.

1. Any player who suffers from a laceration or where the wound is oozing blood, the game shall be stopped at the earliest possible time and the athlete must be treated immediately. If the bleeding requires extensive treatment, a substitute shall replace the injured player. (Umpires are directed to give a reasonable amount of time, to allow injured player to be treated). No reentry is allowed in Sanctioned Tournament Play. (See NCAA Rule Book for Interpretations).

Section 5. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES.

Where there is a risk of blood born, infectious diseases being transmitted. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform it must be changed before the athlete may participate.

2. Routine use of latex gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.

3. Wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids immediately.

4. Clean all blood contaminated surfaces and equipment with a solution made from a
proper dilution of household bleach (CDC recommends 1-10 or 70 percent alcohol).

5. Proper disposal procedure is necessary of all contaminated material.

6. Disposal bags should be carried with emergency supplies and so marked. Most hospitals will accept these contamination bags for proper disposal.

7. Saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth to mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags or other ventilation devices should be available for use.

8. Trainers/Coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.

9. Paper towels, Spray Bottles, Latex Gloves, Disposal Bags, Bleach and water should be part of your emergency supplies. Cloth towels should never be used in any clean up.

10. Disinfectant - Spray Bottle mix must be changed daily. It loses its potency over a period of time.

11. When possible athlete should deal with their own bleeding Example: stopping their own bloody nose, take care of strawberry burns, uniform and etc. Supervision of proper care and cleanup is necessary.

12. Professional Communicable Disease Kits may be purchased from NWCART, 4630 Spurgin Rd. Missoula, MT 59804, Phone (405) 721-7128.

Section 6. PARK LIABILITIES.

1. Signs shall be placed in noticeable areas of the ball park stating: "ATTENTION AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL FANS." The spectator assumes all risks incidental to the game of baseball, including specifically, but not exclusively the risk of being hit by bats or balls. Any bat thrown or ball hit or thrown into the stands can be dangerous. Spectators should be alert to avoid being hit. (Posters are available from the website at www.montanalegionbaseball.org/thestore).

2. Announcements of the above paragraph should be made frequently during the game.

Section 7. MOTEL LIABILITIES.

1. Managers should have motel manager sign a "RELEASE" from all responsibilities upon check out. (MALB Form 11) is available for this purpose and is mandatory for teams participating in sanctioned District, State and Regional Tournaments.

2. Reports of vandalism, nonpayment, etc. from motels, restaurants or other agencies will jeopardize a team participating in further competition.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. LEAGUES.

1. The membership of the “Association” shall consist of teams playing in three leagues, to be known as the "Class AA", "Class A" and "Class B" leagues.
Section 2. CLASS AA LEAGUE.

1. The Class AA League shall consist of the following teams:

   Billings Royals       Billings Scarlet
   Bozeman Bucks         Butte Miners
   Great Falls Chargers  Helena Senators
   Kalispell Lakers      Lethbridge Elks
   Medicine Hat Moose Monarchs Missoula Mavericks

Section 3. CLASS A LEAGUE.

The Class A League shall consist of four (4) districts designated as: Eastern, Southern, Northern and Western Districts.

a). Southern District teams
   1. Anaconda A's
   2. Belgrade Bandits
   3. Bozeman Spikes
   4. Butte Muckers
   5. Dillon Cubs
   6. Gallatin Valley Outlaws
   7. Helena Reps
   8. Livingston Braves

b). Northern District teams
   1. Ft. Macleod Royals
   2. Great Falls Electrics
   3. Havre North Stars
   4. Lethbridge Miners
   5. Lewistown Redbirds
   6. Medicine Hat Knights
   7. Tri-County Cardinals
   8. Vauxhall Spurs

c). Eastern District teams
   1. Billings Blue Jays
   2. Billings Cardinals
   3. Glasgow Reds
   4. Glendive Blue Devils
   5. Laurel Dodgers
   6. Miles City Mavericks
   7. Richland County Patriot

d). Western District teams
   1. Bitterroot Bucs
   2. Bitterroot Red Sox
   3. Cranbrook Bandits
   4. Glacier Twins
   5. Kalispell Lakers
   6. Kootenai Valley Rangers
   7. Libby Loggers
   8. Mission Valley Mariners
   9. Missoula Mavs A

Section 4. CLASS B LEAGUE

The Class B League is open for communities who have enough players to form another team and due to age or other considerations do not wish to play a set number of games during the season or enter post season tournament play. For 2017 the Class B teams will be listed on the Montana/Alberta legion website at www.montanalegionbaseball.org.

Section 5. ENROLLMENT.

1. A team's total school enrollment shall not exceed the following maximums in grades 10th, 11th, and 12th.
a). Class AA 5,000 students.
b). Class A 1,000 students.

**CLARIFICATION.** Additional enrollment from Change of Address, Form 76 and Form 77 transfers will not be counted to push a Class A Team over the 1,000 enrollment figure allowed from recruiting areas.

**Section 6. ANNUAL MEETING.**

1. A meeting shall be held early in the year to fulfill all obligations of the Association. The date and place will be set by the General Chairman.
2. Each team is welcome to submit ideas for the agenda.
3. Rules will be discussed and required materials will be distributed.
4. This meeting is mandatory; every team or program must have at least one representative in attendance.
5. A penalty will be assessed for any team not attending without an excused absence by the General Chairman. Coach will be placed on probation, there will be a $250.00 fine and your team(s) will forfeit their first two home conference games.

**ARTICLE IV - TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION - NATIONAL RULE 6**

**Section 1. REGISTRATION (Base School & Sponsor)**

1. Each team must have an American Legion Post as a sponsor and base school. Outside sponsorship must be approved by the Committee. Outside sponsorship will only be approved when an American Legion Post refuses sponsorship or where no Post exists.
2. A registration fee shall be assessed each team.
3. Team registration fees will be submitted to the General Chairman at the Annual Meeting.

**Section 2. PLAYER & TEAM REGISTRATION (National Form 1 & 2).**

1. American Legion Baseball Teams must register with their Department Baseball Committee via the national baseball website: www.baseballlegion.org. All teams shall register on line between January 1 and May 15. Any team that fails to register by May 15TH shall pay an additional $200.00 to the Department. Any team that fails to submit their team roster(s) by June 1ST shall not be permitted to play during the season. The Department Chairman must certify the team before its first regular season game.
2. National Form #2. All players, their parents or court approved legal guardians must complete Player Agreement and Parent Consent Form #2. The team manager will retain the original Form #2. The second copy must be filed with the General Chairman. Any team or player who fails to complete and file Form #2 can be disqualified from any further play. Form 2 is available at www.montanalegionbaseball.org/forms

**Section 3. DUAL PARTICIPATION**

1. American Legion Baseball players or teams may participate in other amateur baseball programs; however, the team manager and player must obtain written approval from
the department baseball chairman prior to participating in the event and/or tournament. The use of National Form #6 is strongly recommended and is available on line at www.montanalegionbaseball.org/forms

2. The American Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Dual participation shall in no way interfere with a player’s responsibility to his American Legion Baseball team. Once department championship tournament play has begun, the department baseball chairman cannot grant permission to participate in other baseball events, baseball tournaments, exhibition games, showcases or combines. Any player missing any portion of an American Legion national tournament because he participated in another baseball event, exhibition game, showcase, or combine shall be ineligible for post-season play.

Section 4. TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS.
1. Team photographs must be placed on the internet with the roster, or emailed to the General Chairman at mtlegionbaseball@gmail.com by June 15th of each season.
2. Names of players must be included with each photo as they appear in order.
3. Failure to submit photographs may be subject to a fine.

Section 5. REFUNDING OF FEES.
1. Fees are not refundable.

ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF BASEBALL OFFICERS

Section 1. GENERAL CHAIRMAN. (COMMITTEE MAN)
1. The General Chairman shall be responsible for supervising and administering the general operation of the Montana American Legion Baseball program as decreed by the National Americanism Commission and The Department of Montana American Legion.

Section 2. VICE CHAIRMAN CLASS AA. (COMMITTEE MAN)
1. The Class AA Vice Chairman shall be charged specifically with governing the Class AA baseball program under the rules and regulations as commissioned by the General Chairman. He may prescribe rules approved by the General Chairman and/or Committee.

Section 3. VICE CHAIRMAN CLASS A. (COMMITTEE MAN)
1. The Class A Vice Chairman shall be charged specifically with governing the Class A baseball program under the rules and regulations as commissioned by the General Chairman. He may prescribe rules approved by the General Chairman and/or Committee.

Section 4. DISTRICT CHAIRMAN.
1. A person/s appointed by the Committee to oversee and supervise the district baseball program as commissioned by the General Chairman under the rules and regulations prescribed herein. He may prescribe rules and regulations approved by the General Chairman and/or Committee.
Section 5. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Oversee the scheduling of games and operations of the members of the Association.
2. Responsible in matters of dispute for the final decision.
5. Generate rules, regulations and boundaries for all play within the Association.
6. Chairmen shall be exempt of any game fees when acting in official capacity.
7. Should a situation arise which is not covered by the provisions of the rules and regulations, the Committee shall have authority, by consensus of the majority, to form the final resolve.

ARTICLE VI - VIOLATIONS - FORFEITURES - CANCELLATIONS

Section 1. RULE VIOLATIONS.

1. Violation of the rules and regulations herein and in the NATIONAL RULE Book by a team, player, coach, person/s or party/s associated with the American Legion Baseball program shall be subject to the discipline or fine imposed by the Committee.

Section 2. FORFEITURE.

1. A team forfeiting games or not completing the season will be subject to the discipline or fine imposed by the Committee per Section 4 (3).

2. Consideration should be given to the team’s schedule, i.e., revenue loss, program continuity, etc. before a game is canceled. No game should be canceled unless a conference game interferes with the scheduling of a previous postponed conference game. Disciplinary action or fines may be imposed by the committee for canceling of games indiscriminately.

ARTICLE VII - SCHEDULING

Section 1. CONFERENCE GAMES.

The Class AA and A conference schedules will be posted online at www.montanalegionbaseball.org on the Class AA and Class A teams pages each season.

Section 2. INNINGS.

1. Class AA. All games will be nine innings except for a Doubleheader, which shall consist of two seven inning games.

2. Class A. All games will be seven innings for regular and post-season play including District tournaments and the State A tournament. Teams may play 9 inning games if both team managers agree in advance.

3. All games including State and National tournament play shall utilize the 10 run rule: 9 inning games after 7 innings, unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 6 1/2 innings; 7 inning games after 5 innings or 41/2 if the home team is ahead 10 runs or more.
Section 3. DOUBLE HEADERS.

1. The choice in preseason scheduling a doubleheader or single game shall rest with the home team.

Section 4. POSTPONED GAMES.

Conference games that have been postponed shall be re-scheduled as quickly as possible.

1. Conference games have priority over any non-conference game.

2. If the Committee determines there is an excessive delay in the re-scheduling of conference games, it may exercise corrective action.

3. All conference games must be played. In the past, some conference games at the end of the season were not played as they did not impact the Conference standings. Due to financial loss by the home teams, these games must be played or the visiting team must reimburse the home team the sum of $1,000.00 for Class AA games and $500 for Class A games to compensate for the loss of receipts.

Section 5. SEASON SCHEDULE.

1. Each team shall furnish a copy of their season schedule to the General Chairman by February 15th of each season.

2. Each home team manager shall correlate his schedule prior to the beginning of the season with his opponent. Errors in dates and time could result in forfeiture.

Section 6. NON-SANCTIONED PLAY.

1. Teams not associated with American Legion Baseball and non-sanctioned tournaments may be scheduled only with approval of the General Chairman and/or Committee and prove of insurance of each team shall be submitted.

2. Teams using the American Legion name or wearing the insignia of American Legion Baseball in a non-sanctioned game or tournament without the approval of the General Chairman Committee can endanger their eligibility in American Legion Baseball.

ARTICLE VIII – PROTESTING GAMES

Section 1. NOTIFICATION.

1. The protesting manager shall immediately inform the Umpire-in-Chief. The Umpire-in-Chief must notify the opposing coach and the game is to be completed.

2. Protest of official baseball rules during actual game conditions must be filed with the chief umpire before the next legal pitch is thrown.

3. If a player is ruled ineligible, he shall be disqualified immediately and all games in which the disqualified player participated shall be forfeited.

4. The class Vice Chairman shall be notified within 24 hours. A protest that cannot be resolved by the Vice-Chairman shall be referred to the General Chairman.

Section 2. FILING PROCEDURE.

1. The Manager must file protest in writing within 24 hours after completion of the game to the General Chairman. A filing fee of $150.00 must accompany the protest payable.
2. The umpire shall submit an Umpire's report to the Chairman within 24 hours.
3. All protest of player eligibility must be specific, with definite written proof.
4. If a player is ruled ineligible, he shall be disqualified immediately and all games in which the disqualified player participated shall be forfeited.

Section 3. UMPIRES JUDGEMENT.
An Umpire's judgment call will not be considered a basis for a protest.

Section 4. AUTHORITY AND APPEALS (NATIONAL RULE - 10).
1. All appeals must be submitted to the Sponsoring Post Commander for approval. The Committee shall make all clarifications.
2. Appeals shall be in writing. Emails or letters are considered in writing to the General Chairman.
3. Appeals of the Committee's decision will be made to the National Baseball Appeal Board in accordance with the following:
   a). The National Appeal Board shall consider no appeal until all established appeal procedures by the State Baseball Committee have been exhausted, as certified in writing by the General Chairman.
   b). Appeals MUST be submitted via the sponsoring Post Commander directly to the General Chairman. Violation of this procedure is subject to suspension or fine.
   c). An appeal filed under this rule must be made within 24 hours of the time the interpretation of the National Americanism and C & Y Division is issued. Such appeal shall state the precise points of contention that are the basis for the appeal. If an appeal is not filed within the 24 hours of the National Americanism and C & Y Division interpretation, interpretation will not be considered.
   d). The National Appeals Board shall have sole jurisdiction over appeals filed following a decision involving American Legion Baseball rule interpretations rendered by the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division. The decision of the board shall be final and may be enforced by a court of law. The concurrence of a majority of the members of the board shall constitute the final determination of the board.
   e). Telephone, fax, email or written correspondence, other than directly through the General Chairman, to the National Headquarters is strictly prohibited. All communications must be channeled through the Post Commander or Adjutant then to the Department General Chairman. Violations to this rule will subject the team to a suspension or fine. We strongly recommend Managers, Coaches and Post to educate their players' parents and all members of their board of this rule.

ARTICLE IX - TIE BREAKING

Section 1. PROCEDURE.
1. If two or more teams end the regular season with identical win/loss records for conference games, the team's eligibility for post season play shall be decided as follows:
a). The team winning the most of the conference games will advance.

b). If teams split the conference games, the total runs scored in all games by the teams shall decide the winner.

c). If both teams conference wins and total runs scored are identical. A flip of a coin will decide the eligibility of the two teams by the Chairman.

d). If three or more teams are tied, the best winning percentage against teams ending the season (tied or not) in positions 1-2-3-4-5-6-7 in the final conference standings will determine the highest seed with the other teams following in order based on highest to lowest winning percentage.

ARTICLE X - PLAYING REGULATIONS

Section 1. BASEBALL RULES.

1. The Official Baseball Rules shall govern all games except as noted in the American Legion Baseball Rule Book (NATIONAL RULES).

2. Pitch Count Rule (See NATIONAL RULE 1(R). American Legion introduced new “Pitch Count” rules to comply with “Pitch Smart” guidelines. See NATIONAL RULE 1(R) Teams shall be responsible for keeping an accurate pitching record. The Home team designate an official pitch counter for the purpose of tracking both home and visiting team pitchers. This may be done on a paper scorebook or an electronic device.

Penalty. Protests concerning pitching rule violations shall be done in accordance with Montana Rule VIII. The penalty for a violation of this rule will result in the forfeiture of the game(s) and a one (1) conference game suspension of the coach on the first offense, two (2) conference games on the second, and three (3) conference games on the the third offense. The coach will be ineligible for Montana-Alberta post season tournament play after the third offense. Player(s) may also be suspended as determined by the Executive Committee. This penalty shall apply to all regular season and post season games.

3. In tournament competition, the official scorer shall notify the Umpire-in-Chief when a pitcher has 10 pitches of eligibility remaining.

4. The Baseball Committee may prescribe such rules for the playing of any District or State tournament as it considers being necessary.

Section 3. COLLISION RULE. (See NATIONAL RULE 1(H) and the NCAA Rule Book for interpretations.)

Section 4. FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE (See NATIONAL RULE 1(J).

Section 5. BATTER’S BOX RULE (See NATIONAL RULE 1(C).

Section 6. UNIFORMS (See NATIONAL RULE 1(V).

Section 7. MANDATORY MEETING TO SCHEDULE CONFERENCE GAMES

1. There will be a meeting of the teams of each of the four Class A Districts for the purpose of scheduling all conference games. These meetings will be chaired by the respective District Chairmen. Attendance by a representative of each team is
mandatory. These meetings will be scheduled by each Class A District Chairman as soon after January 1 as possible. Class A teams may schedule their games via phone or email with the approval of the District and General Chairman.

2. There will be a meeting of all of the Class AA Teams to schedule all conference games. Meetings will be chaired by the Class AA Chairman. Attendance by a representative of each of the Teams is mandatory. This meeting will be scheduled by the Class AA Chairman. Class AA teams may schedule their games via phone or online with the approval of the AA Chairman and General Chairman.

3. Coaches may not schedule any Conference Games prior to these scheduled meetings. Unless otherwise approved, attendance by a representative of each team is mandatory. Violation of either will result in the forfeiture of your first two home conference games.

Section 7. ADULT SUPERVISION.

1. An adult should always be in the dugout. He also must be listed on the lineup card before the start of the game. (This includes trainers, score keepers, etc.).

2. A player, who may become ill or is ejected from a game, must always be supervised until released to his parents or guardian.

Section 8. GAMES IN ONE DAY.

1. No team shall play more than two games in anyone day.

2. Games will not start before 8:00 A.M. or after 11:00 P.M.

3. A game in progress after Midnight counts for the day it commenced.

Section 9. EQUIPMENT.

1. All batting helmets must have the NOCSAE seal of approval on the helmet. Players are required to wear double flapped ear protective helmets while batting, running the bases and on deck. The seal must be visible on the outside the helmet.

2. Besides the normal catcher’s equipment, catchers are required to wear a safety helmet, throat protector, protective cup.

3. Any catcher's mask that does not have an extended throat protector of at least 2 inches in length, is required to have an attachable throat protector. Umpires and Officials shall halt the game until this rule is complied with.

4. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, a catcher must wear a mask. Any player who refuses to do so shall be ejected from the game.

5. All players are required to wear a double-flapped, ear protective helmet when batting, running the bases, and while on deck.

6. Bat boys or girls must wear a double-flapped ear-protective helmet while on the playing field at all times.

7. All batting helmets must have the NOCSAE seal of approval stamped on the helmet, and such seal must be visible on the outside of the helmet.

8. Protective Helmets - Base Coaches. All coaches "on the lines" must wear protective helmet. Coaches may wear a no-flap; a single flap or a double flap helmet. ALSO:
Official Baseball Rule 4.05 now requires that a coach, until being passed by a batted ball, must position himself no closer to home plate than the front edge of the coach’s box and no closer to fair territory than the edge of the coach’s box closest to the field.

9. Baseballs. An American Legion Baseball authenticating logo is required on all baseballs used in regular and post-season competition. A current list of authentic products can be found online at www.emblem.legion.org.


a). Wood bat. The bat must be smooth, rounded stick not more than 2 34 inches in diameter at its thickest part or more than 42 inches in length. An indentation in the end of the bat up to 1 inch in depth is permitted (cupped bats).

b). Non-woods bats. Metal, ceramic, composite or graphite bats may be used provided they do not exceed 36 inches in length and the maximum diameter is 2 5/8 inches.

c). Any non-wood bat must have the BBCOR certification code marked on the barrel of the bat.

d). Any non-wood bat that does not display the approved certification mark or in the umpire’s judgment has been altered shall be removed from the game, and the player and team manager shall be ejected.

Section 10. AUTHORIZED MEMBERS ON PLAYING FIELD.

1. Only players, managers or coaches who are registered on the National Form 1, are permitted on the coaching lines. They must be in like uniforms.

2. Team members not actively engaged in the game, shall remain inside the dugout or bull pen.

Section 11. AUTHORIZED UMPIRES ON THE PLAYING FIELD.

Teams are encouraged to support our umpires belonging to the Montana/Alberta American Legion Baseball Umpires Association (MALBUA) to umpire Montana/Alberta American Legion baseball games. Non-member umpires may umpire games if MALBUA umpire(s) are not available to work the games. Repeat abuses of this rule may result in corrective action by the Committee.

Section 12. OBLIGATIONS OF THE HOME TEAM.

1. Recite the “Code of Sportsmanship” before each game.

2. Play the National Anthem/s before each game.

3. The playing field must be properly dressed for each game.

4. Provide adequate number of baseballs per game.

5. The field must be available to the visiting team 1 1/2 hours before game time.

6. Provide the visitors a telephone number or contact before the start of their trip.

7. Report scores to (406)250-0202. Reports may be made weekly.

8. Possess National Form I’s, Form 2’s and copies of Birth Certificates.

9. Correlate their season schedule with the opposing team managers.
Section 13. OBLIGATIONS OF THE VISITING TEAM.

1. Contact the home team manager or coach before departing to verify weather condition and game time.
2. Arrive at destination at least 1% hours before game.
3. Have means of sufficient funds to cover emergencies.
4. Possess National Form 1’s, Form 2’s and copy of Birth Certificates.

Section 14. TEN RUN RULE.

1. The ten run rule will be used at the end of 7 innings; 6 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead. The rule will be used in double headers after 5 innings; 4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.

Section 15. LINE UP CARDS.

1. Each team is required to furnish the following with a starting lineup by 30 minutes before game time.
   a). Umpire-in-Chief
   b). Official scorers
   c). Visiting coach
   d). P.A. announcers

Section 15. INFIELD PRACTICES.

1. Each team shall be allowed a minimum of 10 minutes of infield.

ARTICLE XI - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. AGE REQUIREMENTS.

1. American Legion Baseball competition in 2017 is open only to players born on or after January 1, 1998.
2. Any player born in 1997 is NOT eligible to play American Legion Baseball

Section 2. PLAYER'S DOMICILE (See NATIONAL RULE 2(B).

Clarification. The enrollment of the school in which a player is enrolled on March 31 shall be counted. However, this enrollment has never been counted to push a Class A team over the 1,000 enrollment figure allowed from recruiting areas. The completion of a National Form #2 shall be proof of the player's choice. Once a player is deemed qualified and plays for a team under NATIONAL RULE 2.2, that player is not eligible to qualify for NATIONAL RULE 4.D (Transfer Rule). The player's eligibility is tied to that team.

Section 3. AMATEUR STATUS.

1. Players trying out for any professional team may do so with written permission of their American Legion Baseball coach, or General Chairman.

Section 6. PLAN "A" RECRUITING - NATIONAL RULE 3.

1. Plan "A" recruiting is not used in the "Association."
Section 7. PLAN "B" RECRUITMENT- NATIONAL RULE 4.

1. Double Roster of Class A Players. The main purpose of Double Roster is for a promising player(s) of a "farm Team" to gain experience after the Class A season has been completed if the Class AA team has space on its roster.

2. A player of a Class A "farm" team may be registered on the National Form #1 of a Class AA team.

3. A player of a Class A "farm" team may participate in Class AA conference games.

4. A player of a Class A "farm" team who is roster on the Class AA National Form #1 and participates in a scheduled Class AA conference game prior to the completion of his Class A teams schedule can no longer participate on the Class A "farm" team.

5. Double Roster for Class A Organizations with 2 teams that compete in conference play is prohibited.

Section 8. Team/Player Certification and Team Fees

1. Player and Team Registration. American Legion Baseball teams must register with their department baseball committee via the national baseball website: www.legion.org/baseball.

2. Team registration fees are $400 for Class AA, $400 for Class A, and $200 for Class B teams. Class A registration fee will be held in escrow until the season ends. $50.00 will be given to the State Class A Champion to help defray expenses to attend the Regional Tournament. $50.00 will be given to the State Tournament host to help defray expense of Umpires at the State Class A Tournament. $50.00 will be given to the District Tournament host to help defray expense of Umpires at the Class A District Tournaments.

ARTICLE XII - CONDUCT

Section 1. RULES.

1. Managers, coaches, player/s or person/s who in the opinion of General Chairman or his representative, conduct themselves in an ungentlemanly or unsportsmanlike manner that would reflect discredit to this program may be disbarred by the Committee. The Committee's decision will be final.

2. Heckling. No player, coach, manager, or party associated with an American Legion Baseball team shall abuse, heckle or make any uncomplimentary remarks or gestures to any opposing players, team officials, umpires or patrons. An individual violating this regulation shall be ejected immediately from the game.

3. Sportsmanship. Any player, coach, manager or other party accompanying a team will be suspended for the remainder of the game from the time of rule infraction if they:
   a). Use profane language.
   b). Make any unnecessary or obscene gestures in protesting an umpire's decision. (Only team managers or coaches may ask for a clarification of a rule; they may never argue).
   c). Throw bats or other equipment.
d). Make unnecessary or obscene gestures to fans or opposing players.

e). Resort to unnecessary roughness on the playing field.

4. Any player, coach or manager ejected by an umpire must leave the ball park.

5. Any player, coach or manager suspended from a tournament game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct is suspended for the balance of the tournament unless reinstated by the Department Tournament Director. The Directors decision will be final. Person in charge of music from the press box during games must be aware that no music is played except when time on the field is suspended.

Section 2. CORRECTIVE ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE.

1. The Committees policy on corrective action of impropriety is normally left with the local administration. However, where austerity of local policy is absent, the Committee may discipline with more vehement punishment.

2. Penalties that may be issued by the Committee:
   a). Letter of reprimand.
   b). Fine
   c). Probation.
   d). Removal from Competition
   e). Suspension

3. It is the duty of the Department Baseball Committee (before the start of the season) to formulate rules, regulations and boundaries that are not in conflict with NATIONAL RULEs for all play within that Department.
   a). Department Rules may be more restrictive than NATIONAL RULEs.
   b). Such Department Rules will include rules of procedure for protest. (The protection and stimulation of competition must be used in setting these regulations).

4. Department Chairman's Rulings. All questions, disputes and protest within the Department shall be decided by the Department Baseball Committee.

5. The Department Committee shall have the power to disqualify or suspend anyone violating a Department or NATIONAL RULE.

6. Interpretations of NATIONAL RULEs will be made by the representative of the National Americanism and Children & Youth Division.
   a). All requests for interpretations must be in writing by letter, telegram or Fax submitted via the Post Commander or adjutant to the Department General Chairman.
   b). Interpretations by the National Headquarters will be routed back through the Department General Chairman.
   c). Any person violating this rule exposes the team to the discipline of the Committee, which may include suspension and/or a fine.
Section 3. ALCOHOL, DRUGS, TOBACCO AND FELONIES.

1. Use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco by any player, Manager, Coach or Umpire while on the playing field, benches, in bullpen or dugouts is prohibited. Any violating this rule will be ejected from the game.

2. Known felons shall be examined on an individual basis. Managers are to seek advice from the Court that administered the individual case. Appropriate action shall be based upon that advice.

Section 4. CONDUCT BY SPECTATORS OR FANS.

1. A spectator or fan that conducts themselves in an ungentlemanly or unsportsmanlike manner, in the opinion of the umpire or official in charge that would reflect discredit to The American Legion Baseball program or The American Legion shall be removed from the ball park.

2. Aerosol Air Horns and other mechanical noise-makers are prohibited. A spectator or fan will be asked not to use them. A second warning will cause those spectators or fans to be removed from the stands.

ARTICLE XIII - TOURNAMENTS

Section 1. PROCEDURES.

1. The Committee may alter tournament rules if it appears expeditiously necessary in completing the tournament in preparation for the next level of play.

Section 2. AGREEMENT.

1. It is necessary for the tournament host to complete a Tournament Agreement with the American Legion. This agreement and fee must be received by the General Chairman before July 1st.

CLASS AA STATE TOURNAMENT.

Section 1. CONVENTIONAL.

1. The 2017 Class AA Tournament will be held in Bozeman, Montana hosted by the Bozeman Bucks July 26 — July 30.


3. The tournament host shall submit The Class AA Tournament Agreement and fee by July 1.

4. Percentage of all ticket sales shall be paid at the conclusion of the tournament.

5. Percentage shall be as per Tournament Agreement.

6. A copy of the tournament financial report shall be submitted to the General Chairman within 30 days after the tournament.

7. Tournament eligibility will be represented by the eight teams with the most wins in Class AA Conference play. Team hosting the tournament will automatically receive a birth. If the host team did not qualify in the top eight of the Class AA Conference the eighth place team will not be eligible.
Section 2. CLASS AA TOURNAMENT PRIORITY.
The following years established as priority does not indicate the host of the tournament is routine. The Committee may amend or revoke the schedule as conditions' warrant. Teams may exchange tournament priority within their respective division by mutual consent, and an approval by the Committee. If a team waives its priority, the next team in the respective division assumes the priority for the tournament. A team that waives its priority cannot host the tournament until its priority returns in rotation.

Section 3. HOST RESPONSIBILITIES.
1. A banquet or picnic shall be held on the evening of Tuesday July 26 for all participating teams. Public is welcome to attend.
2. Host will maintain all responsibilities of the Tournament Agreement.

Section 4. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.
1. Teams must arrive in Host city two hours before the banquet.
2. All Class AA games will be nine (9) innings, and Class A games will be seven (7) innings except when the ten run rule shall apply.
3. Teams will be prepared to go to the next level of tournament.
4. Coaches and managers are required to attend meetings on the evening before the tournament and each morning before the games as the Chairman may direct.
5. Provide all responsibilities as per the Tournament Agreement.

Section 5. GAMES.
1. All games shall be nine (9) inning games. The ten run rule shall be required.
2. Senior Pitch Count Rules shall be used.

Section 6. BRACKETING.
The seeding and tournament bracket will be provided by the AA Vice Chairman. An 8 team double elimination tournament bracket approved by the National Americanism Committee shall be used. Templates for the tournament bracket will be online at www.montanalegionbaseball.org. The use of any other form of tournament bracket is prohibited.

Section 6. SEEDING.
1. The Class AA Vice-Chairman is responsible for the seeding of teams.

Section 7. UMPIRES AND OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER.
1. The Committee will assume expenses of game fees, meals, housing, and transportation for umpires and official scorekeeper.
2. Umpires and official scorekeeper will be assigned as per the Tournament Agreement.
3. Umpires will be members of MALBUA.

Section 8. AWARDS.
1. The following awards shall be furnished by the committee:
a). Champion and Runner-up  
b). Tournament MVP  
c). Hitting (highest average)

CLASS AA REGIONAL TOURNAMENT.

Section 1. CONVENTIONAL.

1. The Northwest Regional Tournament (Region 7) shall be held In Missoula, Montana August 2-6, 2017. Banquet will be held the evening of August 1, 2017.

2. The State Champion will receive a Regional Tournament packet after the State Championship Game from the Chairman.

3. Transportation to the Regional Tournament will be by bus or air. Meals and housing shall be provided by National Headquarters.

4. Players listed on Form 1, (no more than 18) plus one Coach and Manager are authorized expenses allotted by National Headquarters.

Section 2. RESPONSIBILITIES.

The National Representative will require a $200.00 damage deposit from each team on arriving at a tournament site.

The National Representative will request the following on arrival at the tournament site:

a). Birth Certificates  
b). $200.00 damage deposit  
c). Form 2  
d). Teams airline tickets  
e). Player Rooming List

Players are required to dress in Docker type pants for the Regional Banquet on Wednesday August 2. Dress shoes only. No hats.

The Regional Champion will leave directly from the Regional Tournament to the World Series at Shelby, North Carolina.

WORLD SERIES.

Section 1. CONVENTIONAL.

1. The American Legion World Series will be held in Shelby, North Carolina August 10-15, 2017. A Banquet will be held Wednesday evening August 9, 2017.

CLASS A DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

Section 1. CONVENTIONAL.

1. District Conference games shall end on Sunday July 16, 2017.

2. District Tournaments are to be held during July 20-23, 2017. No tournament shall start before July 20.

3. District Tournament sites will be on a rotating basis listed online at
www.montanalegionbaseball.org.

4. District Tournament fee will be $400.00.

Section 2. SEEDING.

1. The host team is guaranteed a spot in the District tournament.
2. Number 1 will play Number 8, 2 vs. 7, 3 vs. 6 and 4 vs. 5 in each of the Districts. All Districts will be 8 team tournaments. The host team will play the last game on the first day of the Tournament.
3. Teams will be seeded by the District Chairman.

Section 3. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

1. The Host team will submit a Tournament Agreement and Fee to the General Chairman before July 1.
2. All teams should be prepared to go to the next level of tournament.
3. Teams are responsible for their own financial obligations.
4. The tournament shall be directed by the District Chairman.
5. The tournament field does not require lights.
6. Teams are to report to the site by 6 PM on the eve of the tournament.
7. Managers or coaches are required to attend meeting on the eve of the tournament and morning meetings during the tournament if directed by the District Chairman.

Section 4. HOST RESPONSIBILITIES.

8. Provide all responsibilities as per the Tournament Agreement.

Section 5. GAMES.

9. All games shall be seven (7) inning games. The ten run rule shall be required.
10. Senior Pitch Count Rules shall be used.
11. The Committee may eliminate Game 15.

Section 6. BRACKETING AND SEEDING.

The seeding and tournament bracket will be provided by the District Chairman. An 8 team double elimination tournament bracket shall be used. Templates for the tournament bracket will be online at www.montanalegionbaseball.org. The use of any other form of tournament bracket is prohibited.

Section 7. DISTRICT CHAIRMAN.

1. The Committee shall assign District Chairmen to direct the District Tournaments.
2. The District Chairman shall carry out the duties and responsibilities as determined by the Committee.
3. District Chairmen shall comply with rules and regulations of Montana American Legion Baseball and National Americanism Commission and as assigned by the Committee.
Section 8. UMPIRES.
1. Umpires will be assigned as per the Tournament Agreement.
2. Umpires must be members of MALBUA.

Section 9. AWARDS.
1. The Committee will furnish the following awards:
   a). Champion
   b). Runner-up
2. Additional awards must be approved by the District Chairman.

Section 10. CLASS A DISTRICT TOURNAMENT ROTATION.
1. The District tournament rotation will be updated each season online at www.montanalegionbaseball.org
2. Above sites must be able to meet criteria as established by the Baseball Committee to be able to host regardless of rotation.
3. The years established as priority does not indicate the host of the tournament is routine. The Committee may amend or revoke the schedule as conditions warrant.

CLASS A STATE TOURNAMENT

Section 1. CONVENTIONAL.
1. The tournament shall be held in Three Forks, Montana on July 27- July 31, 2016
2. There will be a meeting with the Class A Chairman of all Coaches and Umpires the evening of July 26, 2017.
3. The Champion and Runner-up of each district shall be eligible to participate.
4. The host team will be eligible to compete. If the host team did not qualify in the top two of his District, the second-place team in that District will not qualify.
5. The host shall submit a Tournament Agreement and fee to the General Chairman on or before July 1.

Section 2. BIDDING.
The tournament will be bid one year in advance. Bids shall be submitted to the Committee in by email or mail by June 1.
1. No bid will be accepted under one thousand dollars
2. The Tournament shall rotate and be bid by Districts as follows:
   2013 Southern    2014 Eastern
   2015 Western     2016 Northern
   2017 Southern    2018 Eastern
   2019 Western     2020 Northern
Section 3. **PAIRINGS & SEEDING**

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Section 3. **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The tournament shall be under the direction of the Department Class A Vice Chairman.

1. The tournament field does **not** require lights.
2. The host team must arrange for an alternate site, with lights, that can be used if necessary.
3. Teams shall report to tournament site by 5:00 p.m. on the eve of the tournament.
4. Coach and managers are required to attend meeting on eve of the tournament and morning meetings during the tournament as deemed necessary.
5. Teams are responsible for their own financial obligations.

Section 4. **HOST RESPONSIBILITIES.**

1. Provide all responsibilities as per the Tournament Agreement.

Section 5. **GAMES.**

2. All games shall be seven (7) inning games. The ten run rule shall be required.
3. Senior Pitch Count Rules shall be used.
4. The Committee may eliminate Game 15.

Section 6. **BRACKETING AND SEEDING.**

1. The seeding and tournament bracket will be provided by the District Chairman. An 8 team double elimination tournament bracket shall be used. Templates for the tournament bracket will be online at [www.montanalegionbaseball.org](http://www.montanalegionbaseball.org). The use of any other form of tournament bracket is prohibited.

Section 7. **UMPIRES.**

1. Umpires shall be assigned as per Tournament Agreement.
2. Umpires must be members of MALBUA.
Section 8. AWARDS.

1. The Committee shall furnish awards for the following:
   a). Championship
   b). Runner-up
   c). MVP
   d). Sportsmanship
   e). Hitting

CLASS A REGIONAL TOURNAMENT.

Section 1. CONVENTIONAL.

1. The Tournament host shall be rotated between six participating States; Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. The Champions from these six states, runner up from Alaska and the host team will be eligible to compete.

2. The 2017 Northwest Class A Regional will be played in Eugene, Oregon August 4 -8, 2016. A banquet or picnic will be held the evening of August 3, 2017.

3. The host shall be rotated as follows:
   2013 Wyoming 2017 Oregon
   2014 Alaska 2018 Idaho
   2015 Utah 2019 Wyoming
   2016 Montana 2020 Alaska

Section 2. BIDDING. The tournament will be bid one year in advance.

1. No bid will be accepted under one thousand five-hundred dollars and shall be paid by the Host on or before July 1.

2. The Regional Representative is responsible for seeding teams.

3. The host may have the choice of game time for the first day of play only.

4. In the event a team forfeits its tournament privilege; the host state will invite a team from its own state if the State forfeiting the Champion cannot find a replacement.

Section 3. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

All coaches and managers shall arrive at the host city by 5:00 p.m. on the eve of the tournament.

1. Coaches and managers are required to attend the coaches meeting on the eve of the tournament and morning meetings as necessary.

2. Teams will assume their own financial responsibilities.

3. The team manager will turn over to the Regional Representative, his National Form 1, Form 2, and Birth Certificates on arrival.

4. Games shall be played on a lighted field.

5. An adult must be in the dugout always. An adult, other than the manager or coach,
must be listed on the lineup card before the start of the game.

6. A player who may become ill and confined to his room or ejected from the game must have adult supervision.

7. Rules and regulations shall be set by the Chairmen of the participating States. The tournament will be under the direction of the Regional Representative and Assistant. The Regional Representative has the final authority in any decisions not covered by these rules.

Section 4. HOST RESPONSIBILITIES.
1. A tournament picnic or banquet shall be held by the host on the eve prior to the tournament. All teams are required to attend.
2. Provide all responsibilities as per Tournament Agreement.

Section 5. GAMES.
1. Games are 9 innings or 7 innings as determined by the Regional Representative except when the 10 run rule is initiated.
2. Senior pitch count rules will be used.

Section 6. ENROLLMENT
1. Teams with high school enrollment of more than 1,000 in grades 10 through 12, are not eligible for Regional Tournament participation. (This rule is with exception to Class A teams operating under a Class AA program and the grandfather clause).

Section 7. UMPIRES
1. Umpires shall be assigned as per Tournament Agreement.
2. Montana Umpires must be members of MALBUA.

Section 8. AWARDS
1. The following awards will be provided by the Regional Representative.
   a). Championship
   b). MVP
   c). Runner-up
   d). Team Sportsmanship

Section 9. BRACKETING
1. An 8 team double elimination tournament bracket shall be used.

Section 10. SEEDING
1. Seeding shall be established by the Regional Representative.