

IMPORTANT: If you are not the primary person in charge of the day-to-day operation of your American Legion Baseball team for the 2012 season, please pass this material on to that person immediately.



TO: All MN American Legion Baseball Managers/Head Coaches

FROM: Darwin Berg, Minnesota State Baseball Director,
Al Zdon, Minnesota State Baseball Secretary, and your
Minnesota American Legion Baseball District Directors

DATE: January 1, 2012

SUBJECT: IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES FOR THE 2012 SEASON

Greetings from your Minnesota American Legion Baseball Committee. We hope you are having a productive off-season and that you are preparing for another great season of American Legion Baseball, which is right around the corner.

It has been a busy off-season, particularly at the National level, so we wanted to make you aware of important rule changes that will affect all of us in 2012. In addition, this packet includes information on registration and other administrative requirements for 2012, as well as advance information on issues that have bearing in future seasons.

PLEASE REVIEW ALL OF THE INFORMATION SHEETS IN THIS PACKET VERY CAREFULLY:

1. Team Registration and Insurance Requirements / Procedures for the 2012 Season
2. Information on the State of Minnesota's new law regarding Concussions in Youth Athletics
3. New National and State Rules for the 2012 Season
4. Future National and State Rules / Requirements (2013 and Beyond)
5. Important Dates Applicable to the 2012 Season / 2012 Fees
6. On-line Resources for Managers and Coaches

As always, your District Directors and State Committee are available to provide assistance that you might need. (Contact information for state-wide personnel is below. Please see the reverse side for 2012 District Director contact information.)

Vice Director, Division I: Rueben Nathe
426 Brown Avenue, Litchfield 55355
320-593-8654 (h), Reubenn@hutchtel.net

Vice Director, Division II: Al Davis
115 Pawnee, Princeton 55371
763-389-7814 (h), thealdavis@hotmail.com

Junior Legion Director: Jim Peck
7227 Pontiac Circle, Chanhassen 55317
952-474-5071 (h), 952-210-8462 (c)
jimepeck@aol.com, Fax: 952-474-3079

State Director, Darwin Berg
3340 Lakeshore Drive, Chaska 55318
952-448-2584 (h), DarwBe@aol.com

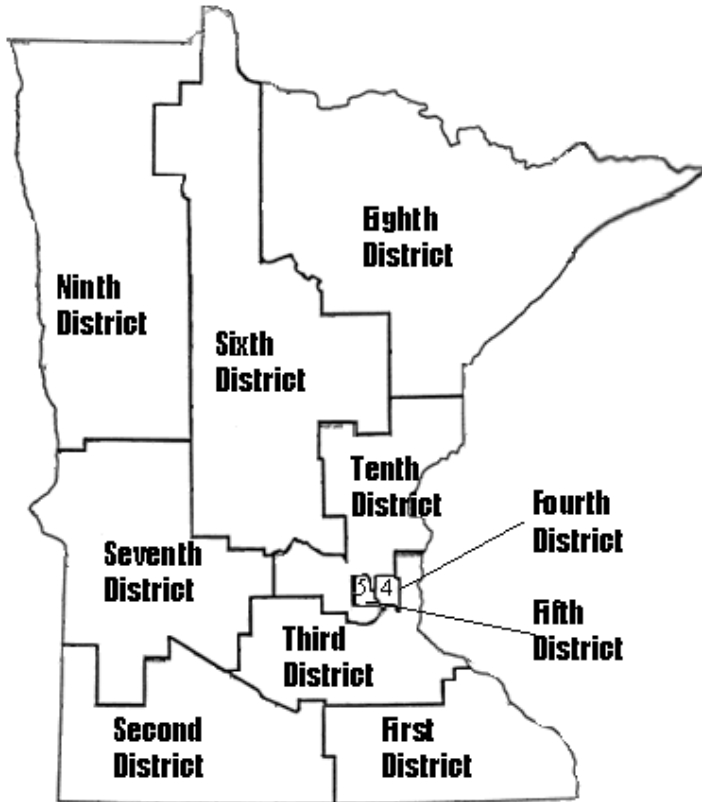
State Secretary (Legion Office in St. Paul):
Al Zdon, 20 West 12th Street, Room 300A
St. Paul, MN 55155-2069
651-291-1800 x 221, Fax: 651-291-1057
azdon@mnlegion.org

Team Registration/Web Help:
Gail Kalata (District 4)
2226 Douglynn Lane, St. Paul 55119
651-731-0550 (h), 651-592-4279 (c)
info@tricitybaseball.org, scgj@aol.com



2012 Minnesota American Legion Baseball District Directors

Contact your area American Legion Baseball District Director (as shown by the following map). For further general information about American Legion Baseball, visit the Minnesota American Legion's web site at www.mnlegion.org and/or the National American Legion Baseball site at www.legion.org/baseball. Please note, however, that some Minnesota American Legion Baseball rules do vary from Rules published on the National web site and in the National Rule book.



District 1 (Counties of Wabasha, Waseca, Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore, Houston)
Jarvis Anderson
54643 Highway 42, Plainview, MN 55964
507-534-2644 (h), heyjude91539@yahoo.com

District 2 (Counties of Lincoln, Pipestone, Murray, Redwood, Brown, Cottonwood, Watonwan, Blue Earth, Rock, Nobles, Jackson, Martin, Faribault)
Richard Mueller
16069 KC Road, New Ulm, MN 56073
507-354-5626 (h), 507-217-1041 (c),
mrmuel@newulmtel.net

District 3 (Counties of McLeod, Sibley, Carver, Nicollet, Scott, LeSueur, Rice, Dakota, Goodhue, Washington)
Bob Zellman
219 Park Place, Box 246, Norwood, MN 55368
952-467-2741 (h)

District 4 (Ramsey County)
Patrick Meyer
20676 Hazelwood Trail, Lakeville, MN 55044
612-414-8748 (c), Patrick_Meyer@uhc.com
and / or Gail Kalata
2226 Douglynn Lane, St. Paul, MN 55119
651-731-0550 (h), 651-592-4279 (c)
info@tricitybaseball.org, scgj@aol.com
District 4 website: www.tricitybaseball.org/dist4.htm

District 5 (Cities of Minneapolis and Richfield)
Mike Karnas
6344 Humboldt Ave. So., Richfield, MN 55423
612-987-0341 (c), 612-869-7376 (h)
championmikey@q.com, mike.karnas@richfield.k12.mn.us
District 5 website: <http://www.mnal5.org/>

District 6 (Counties of Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Hubbard, Wadena, Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Todd, Morrison, Stearn, Benton, Sherburne)
Wes Thompson
104 Perimeter Drive, Sartell, MN 56377
320-259-2955 (h), 320-309-8591 (c)
atalln@charter.net

District 7 (Counties of Traverse, Grant, Douglas, Stevens, Pope, Big Stone, Swift, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Lac Qui Parle, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Lyon, Renville)
Mike Gort
303 Hudson Avenue, Marshall, MN 56258
507-828-5111 (c), 507-532-5890 (h), migort@iw.net

District 8 (Counties of Koochiching, Itasca, St. Louis, Carlton, Lake, Cook)
Dave Kunz
P.O. Box 423, Gilbert, MN 55741
218-750-2388 (c), mnlegionbbd8@gmail.com
District 8 web blogspot: <http://mnlegionbbd8.blogspot.com/>

District 9 (Counties of Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Norman, Mahnomon, Clay, Becker, Wilkin, Otter Tail)
Box 22, Borup, MN 56519
218-790-7530 (c), 218-582-3264 (h), mnlegion9@gmail.com
District 9 website:
<http://www.freewebs.com/mnlegion9baseball/index.htm>

District 10 (Counties of Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Pine, Isanti, Chisago, Anoka, Wright, and Hennepin, except for the cities of Minneapolis and Richfield, which fall into District 5)
Mike Perry
4810 Caribou Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55345
612-998-3636 (c), 952-935-7941 (h), mikeperry5@comcast.net
District 10 website: <http://www.mighty10th.com/>

2012 Team Registration Requirements

All teams must again register through the National web-based system (www.legion.org/baseball), in order to participate in American Legion Baseball. Therefore, before you can compete in any games during 2012 you must:

Step 1) Apply for program participation by May 1st (That is, you must complete a 2012 Team Application through the National web site, www.legion.org/baseball. You may do so beginning January 1st.)

Step 2) Purchase insurance* and pay fees by May 15th through the National web site, and

Step 3) Submit final roster of players and coaches by June 20th. This step includes BOTH of the following:

- a. Filing it electronically with national**, and
- b. Filing it in hardcopy format with your District Director, along with other documents.

Important Notes:

A. Log-in & Password

To register your returning team, you will need your team's 2011 system Log-in ID and Password.

- Your team's Log-in ID is the email address of your team administrator -- the person who previously completed your team application.
- Your team's system Password was originally emailed to that email address.

Because you also need to access the system to enter players, if you do not have this information currently in hand, locate it now, to avoid problems later ...

For example, if someone at your sponsoring Post originally registered your team and purchased insurance (using his/her email address as the log-in ID) you MUST contact that person to make sure that he/she a) completes your 2012 team application, and b) purchases insurance by the 2012 required deadlines. You MUST also obtain your team's log-in ID and password from that person, otherwise, you will not be able to access the system to enter players and complete Step 3 by the required deadline. Your team will then be disqualified.

We (State Committee, volunteers, District Directors) do not have any record of Log-in ID's or Passwords. If you (and your team administrator) have lost your team's password, the National system provides an opportunity to reset the password, but again, the "reset email" will be sent to the email address that was used as the Log-in ID. Therefore, if that is a different person's email than your own, it is your responsibility to coordinate / communicate with that person on American Legion Baseball's program requirements.

B. Insurance*

First, remember that your team must have an available credit or debit card to purchase insurance. Secondly, due to the number of teams that were tardy in purchasing insurance, and the fact that National became aware that some teams were holding tryouts and playing games prior to actually purchasing insurance, National has implemented the following for 2012:

- Returning teams must purchase insurance by May 15, or pay a \$200 late fee.
- Newly formed teams have until June 1 to purchase insurance, without penalty, however.
- Any team that does not purchase insurance by June 1 will be disqualified from American Legion Baseball.

C. Roster Submittal**

In 2011, some teams entered their players and coaches into the system, but they then failed to complete the final (one-click) step on time ("submitting roster as final" in the national system) -- simply because they were not reading the on-screen instructions carefully. As a result of this, national has indicated that teams who do not meet the Step 3 deadline will simply be disqualified from American Legion Baseball. Again, follow instructions carefully!

D. General

- If you have questions on the process, we are happy to help. Step-by-step, printable instructions on using the national system (written for the computer novice) are also posted on the MN Legion Baseball web page -- www.mnlegion.org, then click on "Baseball."
- We are aware that National has been "tinkering" with the registration system during the off-season. Therefore, some screens might ultimately look / act differently than they did last year. We, like you, cannot access/fully explore the system, however, (to see what has changed) until after January 1st.
- You are encouraged to get started on each of the steps in the registration process EARLY. Do not wait until the last minute and face possible disqualification of your team. While we are happy to provide help, we cannot always respond promptly to a high volume of last minute cries for help, nor can we "fix" things for you in the 11th hour, after you already have had several months to work on the required tasks.

Minnesota Youth Athletics Concussion Law
(Compliance is required, beginning with the 2012 Season)

During 2011, the State of Minnesota passed a new law; all non-profit organizers/participants of youth athletics must comply (in addition to HS athletic programs). Therefore, all MN American Legion teams must be in compliance with the following provisions, which became law in Minnesota, effective 9/1/11:

1) ALL participating coaches and officials must receive training on concussion symptoms. (Certification is valid for a 3-year period, after which, you must take the training again and obtain a new certificate of completion.)

a. As a youth baseball organization, Legion Baseball is asking umpire associations to submit acknowledgement that they are in compliance with the MN concussion law (e.g., that their umpires are required to receive training.) However, as a coach, you have an obligation to ensure that you only use umpires who have received the required training, per Minnesota law.

b. You, and your rostered assistant coaches, must receive concussion symptom training -- at least once every 3 years. (Because player safety is of the utmost importance, although not required, it is also recommended that others involved with your team, such as Business Managers, scorekeepers, etc. watch the training video as well.)

c. A copy of a each coach's certificate of completion must be included with the roster packet that is submitted to your District Director in June. Coaches who do not turn in a certificate of training, will not be considered eligible to coach Legion Baseball in MN. (Those who have already completed concussion training through the State HS League may submit a copy of that certificate of completion, in lieu of undergoing the following training, if desired.)

d. The CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) worked with youth athletic organizations to develop a **FREE on-line training video** that meets Minnesota state requirements. It is available at the following web site:

http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html

Watching the video will take roughly 20-30 minutes. At the end of the video, there is a short quiz. After passing the quiz, a certificate will appear on-screen (which has a fixed, non-changeable date). Type your name in the applicable blank. You can then print the certificate. The entire process should take no more than 30-40 minutes.

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is highly recommended that you choose the option of saving a copy of the certificate to your computer. If you don't, and you lose your one printed copy, you cannot go back into the training video to produce another certificate, without watching the entire video and taking the quiz again.

2) During games, practices, tryouts, etc., coaches/officials must remove players who exhibit signs of possible concussion (as outlined in the training).

The training also recommends that coaches/officials suggest to parents that injured players be evaluated by a medical professional, if concussion symptoms are exhibited. (That is, the law does not require that you have a medical professional on-site during games to evaluate players for concussions ... it simply states that coaches have an obligation to remove players, if you see evidence of symptoms, or if you are concerned about the force of a hit sustained by a player.) If a player does not see a doctor, and if you (as a coach) still have concerns about a player's health, you have an obligation to again remove the player and/or not let him play -- and to discuss your ongoing concerns with the player's parents.

3) If a player is removed from participation due to symptoms, and a concussion is confirmed, the player cannot resume participation without written consent from a doctor. (It is strongly suggested that you maintain a copy of such a medical release with other player documents.)

4) Information on concussions must be made available/given to parents, athletes, coaches, etc. On the CDC web site, handouts are available for coaches, athletes and parents. It is suggested that you print them and keep copies handy in your game-day bag. (Use of these handouts is referenced in the training video.) The following link to the CDC's handout page will also be made available on the MN Legion Baseball Resources web site.

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html>

If you have any questions on the above, please contact your District Director for assistance. It is suggested that you (and your assistant coaches) watch the training video and obtain your certificate as soon as possible -- so that everything is completed, well before tryouts and practices begin!

2012 American Legion Baseball Rule Changes

(Please see subsequent information in this packet pertaining to changes that take effect in future seasons.)

National Rules

(Additional information on these rules changes is available on the national web site, www.legion.org/baseball. Along with other coaches from across the nation, you are certainly welcome to post comments there regarding the following.)

2012 Playing Regulations

A. Length of Games. Due to continued lobbying by Minnesota and other states, effective with the 2012 season, National has finally agreed to officially allow states to adopt 7-inning games as the standard for regular season games. Nine-inning games will continue to be required by National, beginning with sub/district playoffs. (Division II playoff/state tournament games will continue to be 7-innings; such games are considered to be an extension of the regular season, due to the fact that Division II teams have opted out of Division I competition. Junior Legion playoffs/state tournament games will also continue to be 7-innings.)

B. On the other hand, National has taken issue with the fact that many states have adopted certain high school playing rules over the years, versus adhering to National American Legion Baseball rules (which mirror MLB rules, if not stated otherwise.) National views this as an issue of potential risk and liability. Therefore, effective with the 2012 season, National has directed that the following rules must be enforced during the regular season (not just during playoffs). Teams/States that do not adhere to these and other National Legion Baseball rules face removal from the program.

1. No courtesy runners are allowed.
2. No re-entry is allowed.
3. Designated Hitter, if used, is allowed for the pitcher only.

Player Rostering Issues

A. Player Transfers/Waivers. In the past, if a player was issued a waiver and rostered by the next closest Base-school team, that waiver (Form 76) was valid for the remainder of the player's eligibility. Beginning with the 2012 season, waivers are valid for the current season only. Waivers executed prior to the 2012 season will remain final and binding through the remainder of the player's eligibility, thereby "grandfathered." For players who are waived for the first time in 2012, Form 76 must be completed annually, if the player does not play for his Base School team. (Currently, it is our understanding that Form 77 Declarations, for those players who are eligible to make one-time option election, such as in the case of a private-school enrollee, continue to be valid for the duration of a player's eligibility.) Forms 76 and 77 are available on the National and State Legion Baseball web sites.

Prior to 2012, Junior players could not be waived/transferred. Beginning in 2012, waivers/transfers of Junior Legion players is allowed.

B. College students. Beginning in 2012, returning age-eligible college students are permitted to return only to the team with which they played in 2011, and they are not eligible for transfer/waiver. (In other words, if they did not play in 2011, they cannot play in 2012. A player who graduated in 2011 cannot play with any team except his prior team.)

Equipment: 2012 Bat Rule

All non-wood bats must be BBCOR certified. If any bat fails to meet this requirement, said bat shall be removed from the game, the batter shall be declared out; the head coach or team manager shall be ejected from the game.

Insurance

As noted earlier in the information in this packet regarding registration requirements, returning teams that fail to purchase insurance by May 15th will be subject to a \$200 late fee. Teams that fail to purchase insurance by June 1st will be disqualified from American Legion Baseball participation during 2012.

Minnesota Rules

Effective with the 2012 Season, the following provisions have been added to Minnesota Rules:

Rule 4, Section C - Player Selection and Rostering

2. Player Selection Exceptions. The following player selection restrictions apply to certain Base School teams:

- a. (No change.) A team whose Base School is a private high school may only select and roster players who attend its Base School.

- b. (No change.) A team whose Base School's Total Enrollment exceeds the maximum Combined Total Enrollment of 3,600 may only select and roster players from its Base School.
- c. **(NEW.)** A team whose Base School Total Enrollment exceeds 400 (i.e., 401 or more) may only select and roster players from its own Base School, as well as players who attend Private High Schools and who are eligible to make a one-time election under the Option Rule.
 - i. This rule applies only to Senior Division I teams which began their participation in the Minnesota American Legion Baseball program (or that made a change in their Base School designation), effective with, or after, the 2008 season.
 - ii. Teams covered by this rule, however, may select and roster up to one player under the Transfer & Bypass Rule OR one player who attends a Non-Base School.
 - iii. Any request for a team's exemption from this rule, for extenuating or hardship reasons, must be submitted to the State Baseball Director, in writing, no later than February 15 of the respective year of competition. Such exemption is subject to future revocation by the State Baseball Director.
 - iv. This intent of this rule is to encourage the creation of more teams, and thus, more opportunities for youth to play American Legion Baseball.
 - v. As a transitional measure for the 2012 season, any players (due to this rule) who would become ineligible to play for the team upon which they were rostered in 2011 may continue to finish their eligibility with such team, without penalty to the team.

Rule 1, Playing Regulations

M. Competition Policy. (NEW)

It is intended that Minnesota American Legion Baseball teams will compete against other American Legion Baseball teams, as well as other teams that participate in similar nationally-organized and sanctioned, community-based, youth baseball programs in the United States and Canada (e.g., Babe Ruth, VFW). In an effort to encourage the growth of such programs (and discourage their degradation), any Minnesota American Legion Baseball team that competes against other types of Minnesota-based teams (e.g., traveling all-star teams that are not participants of such nationally-organized, community-based youth baseball programs, hereinafter "travel team"), or that admits such a "travel team" into a tournament that it (the Minnesota American Legion Baseball team) is sponsoring, shall be subject to the following:

1. Any Minnesota American Legion Baseball team Head Coach, whose team plays any game against a Minnesota-based "travel team," shall be suspended for three (3) of his team's games against other American Legion Baseball teams.

Playing two or more such games will result in the Head Coach's suspension from participating in his team's American Legion playoff games for the respective season.

2. Any Minnesota American Legion Baseball team that sponsors a tournament, and that admits a Minnesota-based "travel team" into such tournament, shall be suspended from participating in its team's American Legion playoff games for the respective season.

If the sponsoring Minnesota American Legion Baseball team admits one or more such Minnesota-based "travel teams" to its tournament regardless, all Minnesota American Legion Baseball teams participating in the tournament are expected to forfeit their games against such "travel team(s)" and/or withdraw from the tournament, in order to avoid being subject to provision #1, above.

In the case of tournaments sponsored by non-Minnesota American Legion Baseball teams, participating Minnesota American Legion Baseball teams will similarly be expected to forfeit games and/or withdraw from participation, even though the sponsoring American Legion Baseball team is not be subject to this provision. Provision #1, above, will still apply, if the Minnesota American Legion Baseball team competes against a Minnesota-based "travel team"; every Minnesota American Legion Baseball team has a responsibility to know its opponents, as well as such opponents' classification status.

3. In the case of tournaments sponsored by non-Minnesota American Legion Baseball teams, and in which one or more non-Minnesota-based "travel teams" is participating, Minnesota American Legion Baseball teams will not be subject to the above provisions. It is hoped, however, that Minnesota American Legion Baseball teams would opt to not compete against such teams.

Future Rule & Administrative Changes, 2013 and Beyond

National Level

College Players (2015)

(As stated on National web site:) As it stands now, students returning home after completing their freshman year in college are eligible to play Legion Baseball. But come 2015, this will change - American Legion Baseball will become a junior-high and high-school age program, only. Participants in all other American Legion youth programs, such as Boys State/Boys Nation, Shooting Sports and the Oratorical Contest, are limited to those attending high school. Thus, in effort to create uniformity amongst Legion youth programs, the National Executive Committee of The American Legion passed [Resolution 45](#) (full text available for review on National site), restricting Legion Baseball player eligibility to junior high and high school students.

Background Checks for Coaches (2013)

While National has not yet provided full details, we have been advised that, beginning with the 2013 season, criminal background checks on American Legion Baseball coaches will be required. At this time, we believe that National intends to incorporate this step into the process of purchasing insurance. Therefore, teams will need to be prepared to provide personal information on their coaching staff, early in the year.

State Level

Division I Playoff Format to Change in 2013

As you might be aware, the idea of "redistricting," (to even out the number of teams in each District across Minnesota) has been raised often over the years by many individuals/teams. Because there has not been any activity by the MN American Legion/Posts to redraw District lines, after much discussion and consideration of several possible options, the Minnesota Baseball Committee (although not unanimously) voted to adopt the following format for Division I playoffs, beginning with the **2013** season.

1. All teams will continue to compete in league games within their own Districts.
2. Instead of participating in Sub/District playoffs within their respective Districts, all Division I teams will be seeded (by a Committee) into Playoff Zones to compete in a state-wide "sub-state" playoff tournament. (There will be no sub-district or District tournaments to eliminate teams from Zone Playoff eligibility.)
3. The Division I State Tournament will remain a 16-team, double-elimination tournament.
4. There will be 15 geographic Playoff Zones across Minnesota, each having roughly the same number of teams seeded into it.
5. Each Playoff Zone will commence its playoff tournament on roughly the same date (which will, effectively, lengthen the regular season for some Districts) and use the same/similar playoff bracket/format, depending upon the exact number of teams seeded into each respective Zone.
6. District Directors (along with additional staff that has been recruited), will serve as Zone Playoff Directors, under the direction of the state-wide Sub-State Tournament Director (Mike Perry).
7. Each Zone Champion will earn a berth in the Division 1 State Tournament; the Tournament host will also continue to receive a berth.

Note: This playoff format change does not apply to Division II or Junior Legion teams.

Important Dates for the 2012 Season

Deadline Dates

February 15:

- Any requests by teams to be exempted from certain rules for hardship reasons (for example, rostering restrictions) must be submitted (postmarked) by February 15. Such requests must be sent to the attention of the State Director for review and approval.

March 31:

- By this date, Senior teams who qualify and wish to participate in the Division II program, must report their intention to do so to their respective District Director.

April 15:

- Newly forming teams must submit written intent to form a team/participate, which must include sponsor information, team name, base school, primary team contact person, etc. by this date. (A convenient form is available on the MN State Resources web site.)
- If existing teams have a change in sponsorship, base school or other critical information to report, it must also be submitted by this date, for approval by the State Director, as applicable.

May 1:

- By this date, all teams must apply to compete for the 2012 season (through the National registration system), by completing their Team Application.

May 15:

- All existing teams must purchase insurance by this date from the designated carrier (S.A. Van Dyk), through the National registration system. (After May 15, teams are subject to a \$200 late fee, assessed by National.)

June 1:

- Final deadline for all teams, including those newly formed, to purchase insurance. Failure to purchase insurance by this date will result in team disqualification from American Legion Baseball for the season.
- June 1 is also the deadline for each District Director to file District Rules with the State Director.

June 20:

- Final deadline for all teams to submit final roster a) to National through the National registration system, **and** b) to the team's respective District Director in hardcopy format. Each team packet must include the following:
 - Roster submittal cover sheet (a printable copy is available on the [MN Legion Baseball Resources page](#).)
 - A hardcopy printout of the team's final roster submitted to National, including coaches and sponsor info.
 - Copies of fully completed, signed Form 2's for all players and coaches. (Teams should retain the originals.)
 - All applicable Transfer/Release forms (#76) and Declaration forms (#77), fully completed and signed.
 - **(NEW)** Copies of each coach's Concussion Training Certificate.
 - Copies of all special notices pertaining to a particular team, unique player exemption approvals, and/or information submittals that do not otherwise have a specified deadline (e.g., special player elections due to a change in player address, guardianship, a neighboring new team formation/elimination, etc.)

June 27:

- Deadline for District Directors to submit team roster packets to State Director, after confirming eligibility of every player and ensuring completeness of each team's packet.

July 30:

- Deadline for each District Director to declare its champion(s) for State Tournament participation.

Tournament Dates

Junior Legion:

July 24-29: Annual Junior Legion State Tournament in Eagan MN

Aug 2-5: Mid-States Regional, Fargo ND

Aug 2-5: West Regional, Rapid City SD

Senior Legion, Division II:

Aug 2: State Tournament reporting date for participating teams (Thursday)

Aug 3-5: 23rd Annual Division II State Tournament in Sacred Heart MN (Friday-Sunday)

Aug 9-12: Central Plains Regional in North Dakota, exact site yet TBA (Thurs-Sunday)

Senior Legion, Division I:

Aug 2: State Tournament reporting date for participating teams (Thursday)

Aug 3-6: 86th Annual State Division I State Tournament in Chaska MN (Friday-Monday)

Aug 9-13: Central Plains Region 6 National Playoff Tournament, Dickinson ND (Thursday-Monday)

Aug 17-21: 87th Annual American Legion Baseball National World Series, Shelby NC (Friday-Tuesday)

2012 American Legion Baseball Fee Information

Senior Teams (Div I and Div II):	National Registration Fee = \$50	State Fee = \$100
Junior Teams:	National Registration Fee = \$25	State Fee = \$30

Fees are paid via the National web site, using a credit/debit card. (Fee payment is incorporated into the final step of insurance purchase.) It is our understanding that insurance rates will remain the same for the 2012 season.

On-line Resources for Minnesota Legion Baseball Teams

You will receive a copy of the 2012 Minnesota Rule Book and the 2012 National Rule Book after you complete your team application and purchase insurance through the National registration system. Therefore, completing these steps early is very important -- late registration/insurance purchase will delay your receipt of important materials! Nonetheless, it is your responsibility to know all rules and procedures for the coming season; the following tools and resources are available for your use. PLEASE USE THEM! If you are in doubt or have any questions, as noted earlier, please contact your District Director or a member of the State Baseball Committee for assistance.

- 1) Minnesota American Legion Baseball [Resources web page](http://www.mnlegion.org): <http://www.mnlegion.org> (then click on "Baseball")

This web page contains items such as the following. Check it often for updated information!

- A list of the deadline dates for the various steps in registering your team to compete, as well as other important alerts and information.
- Step-by-step information and instructions on the National Team Application and registration process.
- Forms needed by MN American Legion Baseball Managers and Coaches.
- A copy of the full Minnesota American Legion Baseball Rule Book (in Acrobat Reader format) as soon as available (anticipated to be in February), as well as links to the National Rule Book and the latest Official Baseball Rules (MLB web site).
- High school enrollment reports (for both public and private schools in MN) in Acrobat Reader format.
- Printable list of District Directors and State Committee Members.
- Links to District Baseball web sites, MN State Tournament web sites, weekly Legion Poll results, etc.
- A list of tournaments that have submitted information for posting.

- 2) National American Legion Baseball web page: www.legion.org/baseball

Each season, you must use this site to apply to compete, then to register your team, players, coaches. In addition, there are many other valuable resources available, such as the National Rule Book, a nationwide list of advertised tournaments, and important Legion Baseball news. Also, once teams begin to register, the site contains a list of all registered teams across the nation, state-by-state (see "Find a Team" link on National site.)

- 3) Official Baseball Rules (MLB site): http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/official_rules/foreword.jsp

Because American Legion Baseball rules are tied to the Official Baseball Rules, it is important that you know and understand any and all rules that are not specifically outlined (as exceptions to Official Baseball Rules) in the Minnesota and National Rule Books. Therefore, it is suggested that you review this site's contents. (Pocket-sized books -- "Official Rules of Major League Baseball" -- are also available from [Triumph Books](#).)

- 4) Minnesota American Legion Baseball Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Minnesota-American-Legion-Baseball/132289496854376>

This page was created as a useful forum for coaches, players, and fans, alike. For example:

- Share your scores with the general public,
- Advertise openings in tournaments you are hosting,
- Post notices that your team is looking for games,
- Promote your team fundraising events, etc.

Use this page as a resource for your team - and help us promote American Legion Baseball in Minnesota! If you are not currently a Facebook member and want to set up an account, it is free. Go to www.facebook.com and follow the instructions; a family member/friend can also help you learn how to use Facebook's features!

- 5) District Legion Baseball Sites

Please see the list of District Directors earlier in this information packet. If a District web page is listed, please ensure that you visit it for information pertinent to your District program.

Please also see the on-line resources (referenced on page 4), pertaining to the MN Youth Athletics Concussion Law.