

IMPORTANT: If you are not the primary person in charge of the day-to-day operation of your American Legion Baseball team for the 2013 season, please pass this material on to that person immediately.



TO: All MN American Legion Baseball Managers/Head Coaches

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

DATE: December 10, 2012

SUBJECT: **IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES & ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES FOR THE 2013 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.

Once again, it has been a busy off-season, particularly at the National level, so we wanted to make you aware of important changes that will affect all of us in 2013. In addition, this packet includes general information on registration and other administrative requirements for 2013.

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

1. Key Minnesota American Legion Baseball Contacts for 2013
2. Information on National's new Background Screening Requirement (**VERY IMPORTANT**)
3. Electronic Team Registration and Insurance Requirements / Procedures for the 2013 Season
4. 2013 Fees / Rule Reminders / Playoff Info
5. Important 2013 Deadline Dates (**NOTE: some deadlines are earlier than last year**)
6. Concussion Training Law Reminder
7. 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 2013 District Director contact information.)

Vice Director, Division I: Darwin Berg
3340 Lakeshore Drive, Chaska, MN 55318
952-448-2584 (h), DarwBe@aol.com

State Director: Mike Perry
4810 Caribou Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55345
612-998-3636 (c), mikeperry5@comcast.net

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

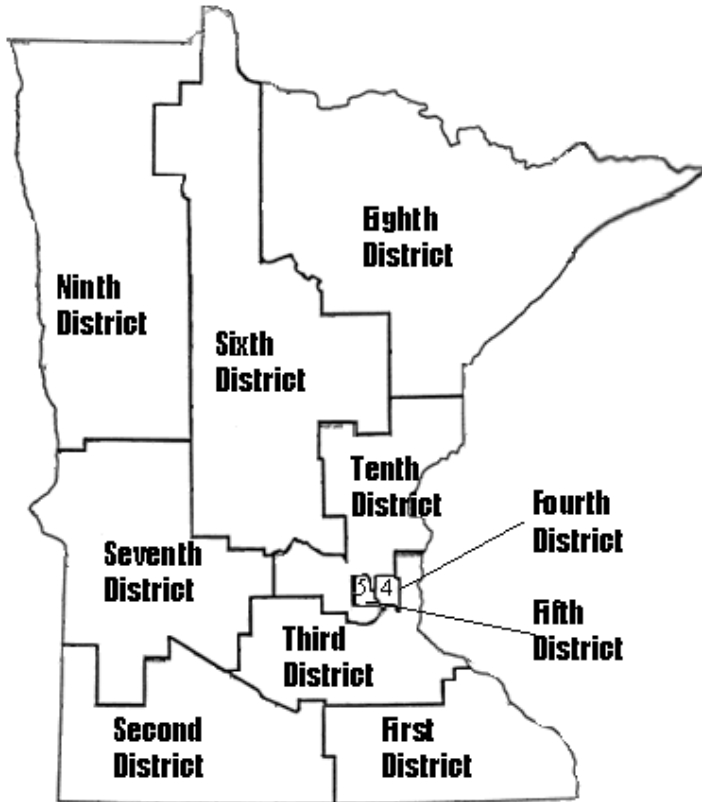
Junior Legion Director: Jim Peck
7227 Pontiac Circle, Chanhassen 55317
952-474-5071 (h), 952-210-8462 (c)
jimepeck@aol.com, Fax: 952-474-3079

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



2013 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. 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)
Bruce Young
225 Columbine Lane West, Shakopee, MN 55379
612-850-1948 (c), 952-445-2519 (f),
byoung3547@yahoo.com

District 4 (Ramsey County)
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, Mahnommen, Clay, Becker, Wilkin, Otter Tail)
Jeff Miller
3242 7th Avenue North, Moorhead, MN 56560
701-367-5915 (c), slickmiller23@yahoo.com

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)
Gene Berg
3033 Texas Avenue South, St. Louis Park, MN 55426
952-929-2856 (h), eugenedberg@hotmail.com
District 10 website: <http://www.mighty10th.com/>

Background Screening Requirement

(Compliance is required, beginning with the 2013 Season)

Beginning with the 2013 season, the National American Legion and its liability insurer have made it absolutely mandatory that ALL managers, coaches, assistant coaches, and other team staff (who meet certain criteria, such as having direct player contact, are in a role of authority, and/or who travel/lodge with the team) must undergo annual background screening before they may participate in any meetings, events, activities, practices and/or games that involve youth participants. A policy statement is attached, which outlines the types of background information that will be screened, the criteria that will result in an individual's failure to pass a background screening, as well as the specific roles that do/don't require background screening. You should read the policy thoroughly; summary information pertaining to the procedures is as follows, however, according to the information that National has made available to us at this point.

1. When completing the team's on-line application, the Team Administrator must acknowledge (via a checkbox) that background checks are required, and will be performed, for all staff, as required by policy.
2. Names and correct contact information for each person (e.g., Team Manager, Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, and other designated staff) must be entered at that time.
3. Those individuals must complete an on-line background check application with "Protect Youth Sports" (the vendor that has been designated by National to conduct background screens.) The secure, on-line application for Minnesota participants is available at the following web address:

<https://opportunities.averity.com/MNLegion>

This service is fully operational NOW, so you are urged to apply for your background screen ASAP.

4. A team's application to participate in the American Legion Baseball program will not be approved until each person has successfully passed the background screening. In other words, teams will not be permitted to move forward with purchasing insurance or entering players into the system.
5. To maintain confidentiality, Protect Youth Sports will deliver a "pass or fail" result to the Minnesota State Baseball Director for each person screened (i.e., no one, other than Protect Youth Sports and the individual being screened, will receive any specific information as to why an individual failed.)
6. Those who fail the screening will not be eligible to participate. A fair, fast and effective appeals process is available, and Protect Youth Sports will work with individuals who fail the screening as a result of database errors; subsequently, the State Director will be notified of a change from "fail" to "pass."
7. The cost of each individual's background screen will be billed to, and paid by, MN Legion Baseball.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The background screening process will require that you determine (and name) all coaches and assistant coaches much earlier -- including any and all part-time or intermittent coaches.
- Your failure to list one of your coaches, managers or staff volunteers who are subject to the background screening requirement -- or your failure to disclose an individual's involvement with your team and/or ensure that all required background checks are actually completed -- will result in your American Legion team either not being approved initially, or being disqualified later.
- If you experience an unexpected change in staff and need to replace a coach (for example, on June 25th one of your approved coaches moves out of state), the new, replacement coach **MUST** pass a background check **BEFORE** he assumes any duties and begins to work with and have contact with players.
- Other volunteer staff (besides coaches), who have direct contact with players, who are in a leadership or supervisory role, and/or who travel/lodge with your team (for example, your team-operated van or bus driver) must also undergo background screening, before assuming any duties or having contact with youth participants. (Conversely, the driver employed by a commercial bus/transport service is not required to undergo a background check through Protect Youth Sports; however, you have a responsibility to ask the service if they conduct background checks on their drivers.) As another example, a person who solely performs administrative work for your team, or who organizes fundraisers and events, is not required to undergo a background screen, due to limited contact with players and/or not being in a leadership/authority role.

Please contact your District Director or other member of the State Baseball Committee if you have any questions regarding this requirement. Please also make sure to visit the MN Legion Baseball web page for a direct link to Protect Youth Sports' application for Minnesota participants. Go to www.mnlegion.org, then click on "Baseball."

2013 Team Registration Requirements

All teams must again register through the National web-based system, in order to participate. Our understanding at the current time is that the new web site URL address will be www.baseball.legion.org. However, it is probable that a link to it will be available on National's main Legion web site (www.legion.org). (See below.)

Step 1) Apply for program participation by April 1st (That is, you must complete a 2013 Team Application through the National web site. 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 15th. 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. National System Access

We have learned that National is working on major revisions to the registration system -- including moving the baseball system to its own dedicated computer server. (While we anticipate that the system will likely function in a similar manner, we expect that it will have a substantially different appearance.) The good news is that a dedicated server will hopefully speed up system response time. National has advised, however, that, **because of the server change, all teams will be required to again set up a User ID and Password to access the system**; you can certainly choose to set up the same password that you have been using. Despite this, National has also indicated that returning teams will be able to retrieve 2012 team/player data.

In setting up your team's User ID and Password, please remember that your team must designate one person as the "Team Administrator," to whose email address all system-generated emails will be sent (e.g., notification that your team application has been received and/or approved, a receipt for your team's insurance purchase -- and very importantly, emails from National connected to any request you make to reset a lost or forgotten password.)

Also, in setting up your team's User ID and Password, please remember that your team's User ID and Password must be shared with anyone else who needs to access your team's account in the National registration system. For example, if you are the Team Administrator who sets up your new User ID and Password, you must share that User ID and Password with the person at your sponsoring Post, if applicable, who is responsible for logging into the system and purchasing insurance. Conversely, if someone at the Post is going to serve as the Team Administrator, you will have to obtain the User ID and Password from them, otherwise, you will not be able to access the system to enter players and submit your roster. Please also remember that we (State Committee members, District Directors, etc.) do not have any record of individual User ID's or Passwords -- therefore, it is very important that you write it down somewhere (or immediately send yourself, and others associated with your team, an email containing that information.)

Like you, we won't be able to get a look at the system until January 1; therefore, once again, we will all need to exercise some patience as we explore how to navigate the revised system.

B. Insurance*

Remember that your team must have an available credit or debit card to purchase insurance. Secondly, due to the number of teams that have been habitually tardy/slow to purchase insurance, and the fact that National became aware that some teams were holding tryouts and playing games prior to actually purchasing insurance (which is explicitly forbidden due to liability issues), National implemented the following in 2012:

- Returning teams **must purchase insurance by May 15, or pay a \$200 late fee**.
- Any team that does not purchase insurance by June 1 will be disqualified from American Legion Baseball.

C. Roster Submittal**

In prior seasons, 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). 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 on-screen instructions carefully and thoroughly complete all tasks! Also make sure to proof your data entry carefully, particularly player birth dates and home addresses (residence as of March 31).

D. General

- If you have questions on the process, we are happy to help. Please also make sure to visit the MN Legion Baseball web page regularly for important and helpful info -- www.mnlegion.org, then click on "Baseball."
- 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 calls, nor can we "fix" things for you in the 11th hour, after you already have had several months to work on the required tasks.

2013 American Legion Baseball Fee Information

Senior Teams (Div I and Div II):	National Registration Fee = \$50	State Fee = \$125
Junior Teams:	National Registration Fee = \$25	State Fee = \$100

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 2013 season.

2013 American Legion Baseball Rules

National Rules

The following National rule changes, which took effect in 2012, will continue to apply in 2013.

Playing Regulations

A. Length of Games. Seven-inning games are permitted for regular season games. Nine-inning games will continue to be required by National, beginning with sub/district/Sub-State 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. 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. Beginning in 2012, waivers (Form 76 transfers to the next closest Base-school team) became 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 2013, Form 76 must be completed annually, if the player does not play for his Base School team. (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 Minnesota Legion Baseball web sites.

B. College students. Returning age-eligible college students are permitted to return only to the team with which they played in 2012, and they are not eligible for transfer/waiver. (In other words, if they did not play in 2012, they cannot play in 2013. A player who graduated in 2012 cannot play with any team except his prior team.)

As a reminder, beginning in 2015, 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.

Equipment: 2013 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. Please check the National and Minnesota web sites for the latest information on BBCOR bats that might have been decertified.

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 entirely in 2013.

Please remember to review your Minnesota and National American Legion Baseball rule books thoroughly. One hard-copy of each is mailed to your team's manager, following approval of your 2013 Team Application (completed on-line via the National web site.) Both rule books are also generally available on-line (as PDF documents), sometime after February 1st -- visit visit the MN Legion Baseball web page for links to the rule books. Go to www.mnlegion.org, then click on "Baseball."

2013 Minnesota Division I Playoffs

Since 2006, the field of teams for the Division I State Tournament has included the 10th District Champion, along with the runner-up and third place teams from Districts 3 and 10, and the fourth place team from District 10. Every third year (beginning in 2008 with the 3rd District), the 3rd and 10th Districts give up a team to District 6. The 16th berth is filled by the Host Team.

Beginning in 2013, all teams will continue to compete in league games within their own Districts. Instead of participating in Sub/District playoffs within their respective Districts, however, all Division I teams have been assigned to participate in one of 15 Sub-State Playoff Tournaments that will be held around the state, with each tournament roughly having an equivalent number of teams. Each tournament will also commence on roughly the same date and use the same/similar playoff bracket/format. Each Sub-State Playoff Tournament champion will earn a berth in the Division I State Tournament; the State Tournament Host will also continue to receive a berth.

If you are not clear as to which Sub-State Playoff Tournament your team has been assigned to, please contact your District Director for further information and assistance.

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

Important Dates for the 2013 Season

Deadline Dates

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 1 (NOTE, this deadline is earlier than in 2012):

- By this date, all returning teams should have already applied for participation in the 2013 season (through the National registration system), by completing their Team Application.

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 review/approval by the State Director, as applicable.
- Any requests by teams to be exempted from certain rules for hardship reasons (for example, rostering restrictions) must be submitted to the State Director by this date for review/approval.

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 15 (NOTE, this deadline is earlier than in 2012):

- 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.
 - Copies of Concussion Training Certificates for new coaches -- or renewals for existing coaches whose prior training has expired.
 - 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, ensuring completeness of each team's packet, and having corrected any problem issues.

July 29:

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

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

Concussion training previously completed by coaches is valid for three (3) years, after which time, an updated concussion training certificate must be resubmitted. Please remember, however, that any new coaches who are joining your staff in 2013 must undergo concussion training prior to assuming any duties -- and you must submit a copy of their concussion training certificate with your hard-copy roster packet. Coaches who do not turn in a certificate of training are not eligible to coach Legion Baseball in Minnesota. (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 CDC training (below), if desired.) 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.

1) 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.

On-line Resources for Minnesota Legion Baseball Teams

You will receive a copy of the 2013 Minnesota Rule Book and the 2013 National Rule Book after you complete your team application through the National registration system and it has been approved. Therefore, completing this step early is very important -- slow registration 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.
- 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.
- Dates and locations for all of the Legion State, Regional, and National tournaments.
- A list of area tournaments that have submitted information for posting.

2) National American Legion Baseball web page: www.legion.org (As of 1/1/2013, National's new Baseball site is expected to be www.baseball.legion.org)

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.

Minnesota American Legion Baseball

Youth Protection Policy

Effective: December 1, 2012

Youth Protection Policy.

American Legion youth programs are intended to encourage safe, healthy, growth-oriented, and productive interaction between staff, volunteers, and children or youth. As such, in concurrence and in conjunction with Department of Minnesota and National American Legion policies, the Minnesota American Legion Baseball Program does not tolerate abuse in any form, whether it be physical, emotional, sexual, verbal or economic exploitation. (Note: full review of the Minnesota and [National](#) policies is strongly encouraged.)

This policy does not, and cannot, address every situation concerning the protection of children and youth. Just because certain actions or behaviors are not prohibited under this policy does not mean that they are acceptable behaviors. Program directors may be required to act with a certain degree of personal discretion, in the interest of helping to protect the welfare and well-being of children and youth. Minnesota American Legion Baseball, therefore, reserves the right to take disciplinary action against any Program participant(s), volunteer(s) or organization(s) whose actions or behaviors are deemed inappropriate and/or inconsistent with the Program's principles, objectives, rules, policies, or intent.

Youth Protection Safeguards.

While Minnesota American Legion Baseball has the utmost confidence in its staff and volunteers, the possibility of misconduct or abuse by adults who occupy authority or leadership roles in programs involving children and youth certainly exists. As a result, it is important that safeguards be present, to help protect the welfare and well-being of children and youth, which is of utmost priority to the Program. The use of criminal background screening is considered a standard protocol by youth-serving organizations. Volunteer program staff undergo criminal history screening for many of the same reasons employers conduct background checks -- the purpose is to verify identity and determine whether anything in the person's past might disqualify him/her from working with youth participants.

Background Screening Requirements. As such, all Designated Individuals associated with Minnesota American Legion Baseball shall be subject to annual background screening (prior to the start of each season) by the Designated Provider, before participating in any meetings, events, activities, practices and/or games that involve youth participants. (See Definitions section, below, for those deemed to be "Designated Individuals" and who are subject to the background screening requirement.) In accordance with National American Legion policy

A. Background screening will include the following:

- 1) Social security number verification and address history trace,
- 2) Alias names national search,
- 3) National sex offender registry search,
- 4) National criminal database search,
- 5) A county or statewide criminal court search, within those states known to have insufficient data contributed to the national criminal database (Delaware, Georgia, North Dakota, Kentucky, Massachusetts, South Dakota, Wyoming, and others as may be deemed in the future).

B. Background screening that yields one or more of the following disqualifying criteria will preclude an individual from participating as a Designated Individual (i.e., serving as a coach, manager, or in any volunteer staff role of leadership and/or authority):

- 1) Conviction of a felony,
- 2) Conviction of a crime involving a minor, regardless of the offense,
- 3) Conviction of a crime involving force or threat of force against a person
- 4) Conviction of a crime in which sexual behavior is an element,
- 5) Conviction of a crime involving controlled substances (not paraphernalia or alcohol)
- 6) Conviction of a crime involving cruelty to animals
- 7) Any sex offender registrant,
- 8) Refusal to undergo background screening, as mandated.

If a Designated Individual is charged with, or has a case pending that involves, any of the disqualifying criteria above, that individual will not be allowed to participate until legal adjudication has been made and until the screening has been verified as successfully completed.

If there is need to substitute for -- or replace -- an American Legion Baseball Designated Individual during the season, the individual serving as the replacement or substitution shall not commence participation or assume any duties until after background screening has been successfully completed.

If information is acquired during a season that a Designated Individual (who successfully completed background screening prior to the start of the season) may have sustained one or more of the disqualifying criteria, that Designated Individual shall be prohibited from participating as a Designated Individual until accuracy of the information has been verified / validated through the background screening process.

Note: Minnesota American Legion Baseball also reserves the right to prohibit any individual from serving as a Designated Individual (or in any other role), if at any time the Program, in its sole opinion, deems the individual to be unfit, not properly qualified, or unsuited, to working with children and youth.

Screening Provider. To maintain consistency and enhance confidentiality, although a Designated Individual may have the ability to provide proof of background screening for some other purpose or through some other source, all background screening for Minnesota American Legion Baseball Program will be conducted by the Designated Provider (the exclusive commercial vendor engaged by The American Legion National Headquarters to conduct background check screening for staff and volunteers of national youth programs of the American Legion.)

Screening Procedure. As part of the National American Legion Baseball team application and registration process, all Designated Individuals must complete a background screening application (on-line), directly with the Designated Provider. Failure to do so will result in the individual's inability to participate.

Minnesota On-line Background Screening Application for Designated Individuals:
<https://opportunities.averity.com/MNLegion>

Results / Findings. The Designated Provider shall submit the result of individual background screenings to the designated Youth Protection Policy Program Manager for Minnesota American Legion Baseball. Such results shall be in the form of a "pass or fail" indicator. A "pass" indicator means that the background screen for a Designated Individual does not contain any disqualifying criteria; a "fail" indicator means that the background screen for a Designated Individual contains disqualifying criteria. Accordingly, the Youth Protection Policy Program Manager will provide results notification to Designated Individuals (and their team's manager, as applicable).

Appeals. If a Designated Individual has concerns or does not agree with the result of his/her background screen, he/she has the right to contact the Designated Provider directly to appeal the result or to provide additional / updated information. The Designated Provider will submit a revised "pass or fail" indicator result, as applicable, to the Youth Protection Policy Program Manager for Minnesota American Legion Baseball.

Definitions.

Abuse:

- Physical Abuse - Injury intentionally inflicted.
- Economic Abuse/Exploitation - Deliberate temporary or permanent misuse of another's money or belongings.
- Emotional Abuse - mental or emotional injury inflicted resulting in an observable and material impairment in growth, development or psychological functioning.
- Neglect - Failure to provide basic needs of vulnerable individuals or protect them from harm.
- Sexual Abuse - contact or activity of a sexual nature, without consent, or when consent is not possible.
- Verbal Abuse - Use of words intended to cause harm or demean the person being spoken to.

Designated Provider: The exclusive commercial vendor engaged by The American Legion National Headquarters to conduct background check screening for staff and volunteers of national youth programs of the American Legion.

Effective October 17, 2012:
Priority Research Services, Inc., DBA "Protect Youth Sports."
14499 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Ste 201 South
Tampa, FL 33618
(877) 319-5587 (8 am to 6 pm EST)
www.protectyouthsports.com

Designated Individual: Individuals designated by Minnesota American Legion Baseball who are subject to background screening, prior to being eligible to participate in any meetings, events, activities, practices and/or games that involve youth participants. More specifically,

- An adult (18 years of age or older) staff person or volunteer, who occupies an authority, supervisory or leadership role with an American Legion Baseball team, and who has direct, regular one-on-one contact with youth participants. Examples include the following (or the equivalent titles for similar roles):
 - Team Manager/Director
 - General Manager
 - Manager/Head Coach
 - Head Coach
 - Assistant Head Coach
 - Pitching, Batting, Fielding and/or other specialty coach / instructor
 - Base Coach
 - Coach
 - Assistant Coach
 - Substitute / intermittent or part-time Coach or Assistant Coach

- An adult volunteer, who travels and/or lodges with an American Legion Baseball team as an official member of its staff, who occupies an authority, supervisory or leadership role with the team, and who has direct one-on-one contact with youth participants -- even though any/all of the preceding might be intermittent during the season. Such persons might include the following (or the equivalent titles for similar roles):
 - Team Van/Bus Driver
 - Team Business Manager
 - Sponsor Representative
 - Team Chaperon
 - Team Staff Member Clinic or Camp Director / Leader
 - Drill / Practice / Tryout Leader or Assistant

- State and District Directors, Vice-Directors, Program / League Directors
- State and/or District-invited Ambassador staff members
- State, District, Sub-District and Sub-State Tournament Directors and other designated official staff members (i.e., all persons designated to serve as tournament directors for Division I, Division II, and Junior Legion playoff tournaments)

The following are examples of those who are **not** considered to be Designated Individuals, (i.e., not normally subject to background screening), unless they also occupy a role described above on a dual or intermittent basis:

- Team Volunteers who are less than 18 years of age.
- Player parents who might assist with team activities (such as fundraising, carpooling, etc.) and who do not otherwise occupy a role outlined above)
- Equipment Managers/Assistants
- Scorekeepers / Statisticians
- Field Maintenance Staff / Crew
- Announcers / Scoreboard Operators
- Gate / Concession Workers
- Fundraising / Event Coordinators
- Web Site Administrators
- Team Treasurers
- Team Clerical and Administrative Staff
- Drivers (or pilots) of commercial transportation services (Note: it is each team's responsibility to utilize service providers who conduct background screening on such personnel, and/or to request that background screening be conducted.)

Child: Anyone under the age of 12.

Youth: anyone between 12 and 18 years of age.

Youth Protection Policy Program Manager: The person designated by Minnesota American Legion Baseball to administer this policy, which includes receiving background screening results from the Designated Provider and notifying Designated Individuals accordingly.

Effective December 1, 2012:

Mike Perry, State Director, Minnesota American Legion Baseball
 4810 Caribou Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55345
 612-998-3636, mikeperry5@comcast.net

Costs.

Costs associated with the administration of this policy, including the cost of individual background screening for Designated Individuals, will be borne by Minnesota American Legion Baseball.

Reporting Violations and Abuse.

Any person who observes, or otherwise becomes aware of, any violation of this policy (including inappropriate or abusive behavior) has a responsibility to report his/her suspicion(s) or allegation(s) to the Youth Protection Policy Program Manager, in writing.

If there is ANY reasonable suspicion that illegal child abuse has occurred, the observing and/or knowledgeable person must also immediately report such to law enforcement authorities, as well as to the youth participant's parent(s) or guardian(s). This reporting responsibility may not be abdicated to another individual; it is not to be assumed that law enforcement, parent(s), guardian(s), or the Youth Protection Policy Program Manager is already aware through other means. The accused individual shall be immediately suspended from all activities involving contact with youth participants, with such suspension continuing until the accused is cleared of all such allegations. If the allegations are proven correct, the accused shall be permanently removed from all participation in Minnesota American Legion Baseball.

General Team and Individual Responsibilities.

All Minnesota American Legion Baseball teams, as well as individual staff volunteers, have important responsibilities in the administration of this policy, as well as generally ensuring the safety and welfare of the American Legion Baseball program's youth participants. These responsibilities include the following:

- Ensuring that all Designated Individuals have successfully completed background screening, before their participation is permitted.
- Reporting suspected and/or confirmed abuse which is in violation of this policy.
- Taking appropriate steps at all times to protect the welfare and well-being of youth participants.
- In general, reviewing, understanding, and complying with this policy and all of its requirements.

Teams and/or individuals who fail to comply with this policy are subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion from the American Legion Baseball Program.