



MISSOURI AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

2024 FRESHMAN STATE TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

The American Legion National Rule Book and Official Baseball Rules (OBR) are the basis for all rules for this tournament. Some rules are emphasized, and others are adapted for this tournament.

1. All coaches will bring team registration documents to the tournament to be checked by the Tournament Director or authorized representative before the game. Rosters, proof of age (such as a government issued “REAL” ID, original or certified copy of birth certificate or passport) and each player National Form #2 must be checked to participate in the State tournament.
2. Designated Hitter – If a designated hitter is used, it can be used for any defensive position. **POINT OF EMPHASIS - The “Ohtani Rule” is not permitted in American Legion Baseball.**
3. Courtesy Runner – A team may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher. Once a courtesy runner is used for a player, the same courtesy runner must be used for that player throughout the game. If a team does not have enough players to designate a runner for both positions, the last batted out will be used.
4. Tournament Formats –
 - A. All games will be 7 innings.
 - B. No team, in accordance with the National Rule Book, will play more than two games in one day.
 - C. The Tournament Director will decide if a game is to be delayed, suspended or completed due to inclement weather. A 30 minute delay will be implemented for lightning. The game will not resume, until lightning is determined to be 8 miles or more away from field of play. While in a delay, any additional lightning within an 8 mile radius will reset the a 30 minute delay.
 - D. No team can be eliminated unless they have lost at a minimum of two games regardless of the tournament format, unless a team has to forfeit.
 - E. The Tournament Director will provide each team advanced notice of any venue specific requirements or restrictions within 7 days of the start of the tournament.
5. Everyone in the dugout must be in appropriate uniform. *See National Rule Book for proper uniform.* Players and coaches will wear uniforms in an appropriate manner at all times, (i.e., shirt tails in at all times, and hats worn properly). Only the players legally on roster for that team will be in the dugout. Scorekeepers, and medical staff do not have to wear uniforms and they may sit in the dugout, however they need to stay in the dugout.
6. All base coaches will wear protective headgear, such as batting helmets or catcher’s skull caps per National rules. Basecoach’s must match, whether wearing pullover or uniform.
7. All participants will have the official American Legion Baseball shoulder patch (crossed bats) on their left sleeve or left chest of the jersey. Participants who do not have a patch will be removed from the game until this is corrected, then they may re-enter the game.
8. Re-entry Rule – Re-entry is allowed for any defensive player removed from the game, as long as the player is re-entered in the same position in the batting order.
9. Pitching Rules – The American Legion pitching rules are in effect. Pitch counts will be updated after each half inning and confirmed with the umpires.
 - A. No player may pitch more than a total of 105 pitches per day. A pitcher will be allowed



...Rules and Regulations continued.

to finish the batter once the pitcher reaches the daily maximum of pitches. The pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made. No player may enter the game as a pitcher without having fulfilled the required rest days as mandated in the chart below.

Program	Daily Max Pitches in Game	Required Rest (Pitches)				
		0 days	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days
All Divisions	105	30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+

- B. Any player may be removed from the pitching position and remain in the game at another position. However, a pitcher will be automatically removed from the position when a coach makes a second trip to the mound in the same inning.
- C. If a player returns as a pitcher in the same game, he will be charged with another appearance. **POINT OF EMPHASIS - No player may make more than two appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period.** PENALTY - The pitcher is removed from the pitcher position and head coach shall be ejected from the game & serve an additional game suspension.
- D. If a team has multiple games scheduled on the same day, a pitcher who pitches more than 45 pitches in Game 1 may not pitch in a subsequent game that day and will be required to follow the rest protocol listed.
- E. A day is defined as 8:00 AM to 8:00 AM.

- 10. Ejections – Any player or coach ejected from a game for any reason will sit out the remainder of that game, and the next game the team is scheduled to play. **EXCEPTION – A player or coach may ask the Tournament Director to be reinstated in the tournament. Reinstatement will be considered by Tournament Director based on the severity of the infraction.**
- 11. Lineup Cards – Teams will provide their own lineup cards. Cards will be completed in at least 3 copies, with first name, last name, position, and jersey number for all players, including substitutes. One copy to umpire, press box, and opposing team. Home and visiting team will be determined by a coin toss. Coaches should accomplish this prior to turning in their lineup cards.
- 12. Baseballs – Teams will provide two baseballs per game.
- 13. Admission – The maximum admission fee of \$8.00 can be charged for tournaments. Any admission fee will be determined by the Tournament Director and/or the host venue. Players and coaches have free entrance while in uniform. **EXAMPLE – \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for veterans, seniors and students and FREE for Children (6 and under).**
- 14. Concessions – If the venue provides concessions, **NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINKS ARE ALLOWED. NO COOLERS ALLOWED**, except for team coolers, if approved by the Tournament Director and/or host venue.
- 15. Dugouts – Teams **WILL** clean up their dugout after each game. Sportsmanship within the dugout must be maintained at all times. Only approved members of the coaching staff, who have passed mandatory background checks and abuse awareness training are allowed in the dugout.



...Rules and Regulations continued.

16. Protests – The only protests allowed are protests based on rules interpretation, and player eligibility/fraud. Protests may be submitted, in writing, to the tournament director on site prior to the end of the game in question. A \$100, non-refundable protest fee must also be paid to finalize the protest. Decision of the tournament protest committee is final. Protests of Official Baseball Rules during actual game conditions must be filed with the umpire before the next legal pitch.
17. Forfeiture – Once the bracket/schedule for a tournament is set by the Baseball Committee, a team that does not show up for the contest will forfeit, the opponent will advance and the team will be eliminated from remainder of the tournament.
18. Ineligibility – If a player is found to be ineligible for a game, a protest must be filed with the Tournament Director immediately. Protest must be specific with written proof of claim. All protests must indicate the specific rule that caused the ineligibility. This protest must be forwarded to the State Chairman in writing, where a ruling will be decided before the player can continue in the tournament.
20. Team Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players, parents and fans. Unsportsmanlike conduct (Obscene language, excessive rhetoric towards opponents and umpires, etc.) may result in the ejection of coaches, players and fans.
21. Umpires – It is the responsibility of the Tournament Director to oversee the conduct of tournament umpires and staff. Umpires will be directed to suspend play and consult the Tournament Director where the safety of all participants may be in doubt. At no time, is it acceptable for an umpire to physically contact any participant at the tournament for any purpose other than what is required to conduct his/her official duties. Each team will split the cost for two umpires during bracket games. In the championship game(s), teams will split the cost for the third umpire, unless other arrangements have been agreed upon by all parties.
22. The National Anthem will be played and the Sportsmanship Code will be read during each game. All attendees of a sanctioned Department of Missouri American Legion Baseball games are expected stand during the playing of the National Anthem to honor our service members, veterans and our United States Flag.
23. The American Legion Baseball Code of Sportsmanship must be recited at the beginning of sanctioned Department of Missouri American Legion Baseball. Teams will form on the foul line closest to their team dugout for this pregame event, which will be conducted before the playing of our National Anthem.

CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

I WILL:

Keep the rules

Keep faith with my teammates

Keep my temper

Keep myself fit

Keep a stout heart in defeat

Keep my pride under in victory

Keep a sound soul, a clean mind, and a healthy body.



...Rules and Regulations continued.

- 24. The Tournament Director is responsible for notifying teams of their scheduled games in the tournament. Any venue specific request or requirements should be relayed to the teams in a timely manner to ensure the team is adequately prepared to compete at the venue. All participants at the venue must adhere to venue, city, county, and state rules, policies, procedures and guidelines.
- 25. The Department of Missouri has a “warning then ejection” policy for any violation of what is considered good sportsmanship by the Tournament Staff. Once an ejection has been ruled, the ruling is final. The person who has been ejected must leave the premises immediately before play resumes. In the event that a person refuses to exit the premises, local authorities will be contacted to assist in the ejection of the person. At no time will physical contact be used by the tournament staff to remove a person who has been ejected. There is a zero tolerance for physical violence and no warning will be given. Local authorities will be informed immediately. The person involved in physical violence will be barred from attendance to any future American Legion event without written permission from the Department of Missouri Baseball Committee.
- 26. Fan Conduct – The use of artificial noisemakers (horns, loud speakers, Bluetooth media players, etc.) will not be permitted. Persons using any artificial noisemaker will be asked to stop. A second violation will result in removal from the venue. Persons entering the playing field or throwing or attempting to throw objects on the field also will be subjected to immediate ejection and criminal prosecution. No person is authorized to be on the field or in the dugout without a background check and abuse awareness training. Persons using obscene, abusive language or engaging in any antisocial conduct, offensive to those around them will be asked to cease the conduct. If the offensive conduct persists, those involved will be subject to ejection.
- 27. Communication Devices – Pitchcom or similar devices used to communicate between a coach and catcher is permitted for regular season games only. **POINT OF EMPHASIS - These devices will be prohibited for post season tournaments.**
- 28. Balks – All official balk rules are in effect. **POINT OF EMPHASIS - In instances where it is unclear to the umpire that the behavior of the pitcher is intended to deceive the runner, the “intent” of the pitcher should govern.**
- 29. The following MLB rules have **NOT** been adopted by The American Legion Baseball Committee for use during the 2024 season and shall not be used in the Department of Missouri:
 - A. Larger Bases
 - B. Ohtani Rule (see *MOALB Guideline 2*)
 - C. Extra Inning Rule (*Runner at 2B*)
 - D. Pitch Timer
 - E. One Way Communication (*See MOALB Guideline 27*)
 - F. Mound Visits (*See MOALB Guideline 9.B*)
- 30. Please direct all questions to the on-site Tournament Director and/or authorized representative at the venue.

