

***Denotes rule change**

The rules printed herein shall apply to both the Pennsylvania Youth Legion and Pennsylvania Prep Legion Baseball Programs.

Rule 13 applies to the Prep Program.

Youth Legion Baseball and Legion Prep Program competition shall be played under rules set forth and adopted by the American Legion Activities Committee. To be eligible to compete in the American Legion Baseball Program, all Leagues and Teams must abide by these rules. Failure to abide by these rules will result in immediate disqualification. All Leagues will also abide by the Rules of Professional Baseball, except where stated otherwise.

THE CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

I WILL KEEP the rules.

I WILL KEEP faith with my teammates.

I WILL KEEP my temper.

I WILL KEEP myself fit.

I WILL KEEP a stout heart in defeat.

I WILL KEEP my pride under in victory.

I WILL KEEP a sound soul, a clean mind and a healthy body.

Only good sportsmen of good character are the proper men to manage Legion Baseball teams. They must, by precept and example, keep constantly before the players, the true purpose of the American Legion Baseball Program. In other words, a Post Athletic Officer or Team Manager should not consider himself merely a coach with them main objective the winning of games. His big job is to keep uppermost in the minds of the players at all time, the citizenship lessons learned from participating in the program. Every team cannot win championship honors, but every player can win that which is of most importance – the spirit of fair play, loyalty, teamwork, obedience, gameness and democracy.

It shall be the responsibility of the sponsor of the team to see that his team, coach and manager are instructed in the code of sportsmanship prior to the start of each season and to certify that the Pennsylvania Youth Legion Baseball rules have been read and explained to his team, manager and coaches.

It is the responsibility of the League Chairman to instruct all team managers that both teams prior to the start of the game line up along the base paths and repeat the Code of Sportsmanship in unison. It is the responsibility of the home team to enforce this rule. Teams violating this rule are subject to a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), payable to the Director of Activities, and/or disqualification from the program.

RULE 1 - PLAYING REGULATIONS

NO TEAM SHALL PARTICIPATE IN ANY GAME OR TOURNAMENT OUTSIDE THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ACTIVITIES AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE GAME OR TOURNAMENT BEING

PLAYED.

NO LEAGUE GAME SHALL BE POSTPONED OR RESCHEDULED TO ALLOW ANY TEAM TO PARTICIPATE IN A NON-LEAGUE GAME OR TOURNAMENT. FORM AL#4 SHOULD BE COMPLETELY FILLED OUT AND HAVE ALL REQUIRED SIGNATURES FOR THIS PURPOSE.

THE LEAGUE SHALL SUSPEND ANY MANAGER VIOLATING THIS RULE ACCORDING TO GUIDELINES SET UP.

All coaches, managers, and other adults in the dugout and on the Youth Baseball roster must have proof of a State Police criminal (**SP4-164**) and child abuse background check (**CY-113**) submitted to the team sponsor for submission at the time the team is registered with the Junior Legion Official. These forms can be downloaded from the Pennsylvania State Police or Pennsylvania Department of Welfare web sites. There is a fee to process each of these.

(A) The Youth Committee person appointed by the Department Commander, in his respective area, shall be the official representative of the Director of Activities. They shall have full and complete authority to carry out the mandates of this program as prescribed by the Director of Activities and the Dept. Activities Committee.

(B) All games shall be played under OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES as published by Major League Baseball, except as follows:

*1. All teams including managers and coaches must be **fully** uniformed alike for batting and infield practice and games. However, any exception to this rule MAY BE approved by the Regional Director, in a written explanation to the Director of Activities, as to why the team is not uniformed. No team shall go to any Championship Play-off or Tournament without being fully uniformed. Coaches may wear warm up jackets only if they have LEGION patch on left sleeve.

2. An official American Legion Baseball insignia, must be an embroidered patch, and must be sewn on the left sleeve or left breast of the uniform shirt, or jacket that is worn over top of uniform shirt. This includes all personnel in uniform (manager, coaches and players). Violation of this rule WILL RESULT IN THE REMOVAL OF THE OFFENDER OR OFFENDERS BY THE UMPIRE FROM FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN THE GAME WHEN DISCOVERED DURING THE GAME AND SHALL CAUSE THE TEAM TO BE FINED \$50.00 PER OFFENSE (NOT TO EXCEED \$100.00 PER GAME), SUCH FINE TO BE PAID AND VERIFIED AS PAID BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR OR AN ASSISTANT AS SELECTED BY THE DIRECTOR BEFORE THE OFFENDERS MAY PARTICIPATE IN ANOTHER GAME AND THIS FEE TO BE SENT TO STATE HEADQUARTERS. IF ANY OFFENDER PARTICIPATES IN A GAME PRIOR TO THE FINE BEING PAID, THE GAME OR GAMES SHALL BE FORFEITED. IF THE OFFENSE OCCURS IN THE FINAL GAME OF THE SEASON, THE FINE SHALL BE PAID PRIOR TO THE OFFENDING TEAM PLAYING THE NEXT YEAR. The insignia may be purchased from the American Legion Emblem Division, PO BOX 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105, at a cost of \$1.50 each; check must accompany order.

3. The front of the uniform shirt shall carry only lettering or wording that identifies the name of the Post, Town, Community or Organization sponsoring the team. Numbers may be included. No firm or company whose advertisement reflects the sale or use of alcoholic beverages, or tobacco products shall be permitted to display such advertising on team uniforms.

4. A number at least six (6) inches high must be carried on the back of the uniform shirt.

5. A full baseball uniform consisting of shirt, pants, cap, team hose and baseball shoes must be worn in any game by all managers, coaches and players. Persons in violation of this rule will not be allowed to participate in the game and may be disqualified from further participation in the Pennsylvania American Legion Baseball program.

* **6. WOOD BATS MUST BE USED. BATS MUST MEET THE SPECIFICATIONS LISTED IN RULE 1.10a-c OF THE "OFFICIAL RULES OF MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL."**

7. The players are required to wear a double-flapped, ear protection helmet, bearing NOCSAE stamp while batting, running bases or on deck. Batboys and girls must also wear a double flapped ear protective helmet while on the playing field. Helmets must meet NOCSAE specifications and bear the NOCSAE stamp on outside of helmet.

a. Players not wearing the regulation helmet will be suspended from the game.

*8. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, catchers, coaches or any person warming up the pitcher must wear a mask either in the crouch or kneeling position. Any person refusing to do so will be ejected from the game. Helmets must meet NOCSAE specifications and bear the NOCSAE stamp on outside of helmet.

a. Catchers are also required to wear a protective cup.

b. **Any catcher's mask that does not have an extended throat protector of at least two (2) inches in length is required to have an attachable throat protector. Umpires and tournament officials shall halt the game until this rule is complied with.**

9. No player may wear or have any object or equipment that will reflect or draw a glare while on the playing field.

10. The official baseball for Youth Legion Baseball games shall be the baseball adopted by the Department Activities Committee. The baseball adopted for the current year is the Diamond D2 AL PA any may be purchased through authorized dealers. The official baseball must be in the hands of the Umpire-in-Chief at the start of the game in order to have the game counted in the official records. UMPIRES SHALL NOT START A GAME UNLESS THE RULE IS COMPLIED WITH, IF NOT, THE GAME SHALL BE DECLARED A FORFEIT. The official baseball shall be purchased from the Diamond dealers.

11. Refer to rule 8.06 as it appears in the current issue of the official baseball rules as printed by Major League Baseball. Exception: Any player may be removed from the pitching position and remain in the game at another position. PENALTY for violating this rule: Forfeiture of the game if a protest is filed with the umpire in chief before the last out of the game.

12. Each team when on offense may be granted not more than one charged conference per inning to permit the coach or any of his team's personnel to confer with base runner and/or the batter. The umpire shall deny any subsequent offensive team request for charged conference.

13. Only registered players or the three certified adults in the uniform of the team are permitted on the coaching lines. The three adult coaches must be registered with the Department Director of Activities at the time that the players are certified. Only the certified players, field manager, coaches, bat boys, score keeper and certified trainer shall be permitted to sit on the players' bench or in the dug-out.

14. At all times a bona fide member of the Post should be officially in charge of the team as Business Manager, except as noted in case of outside sponsorship listed in the National Guide.

15. Under no circumstances will any team be required to play more than two (2) scheduled games in any one day. Playing days will begin at 8:00 A.M. local time.

16. Youth Legion Leagues shall play 7 innings in their respective Leagues.

17. ALL TEAMS MUST HAVE IN ITS POSSESSION A PROPERLY SUPPLIED FIRST AID KIT FOR USE AT ALL BASEBALL GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS.

18. Only bats may be used in warming up in the on deck area or in any other location. Weighted bats, devices designed to attach to and remain part of the bat, such as weights or wind resistant foils, are permitted. Sledgehammers, weighted pipes and other heavy paraphernalia are not permitted. Safety of other players and spectators is paramount. Unsafe devices cannot be used.

19. In any exhibition, regular league game, playoff or Regional and State Final games, no player may pitch more than a total of ten (10) innings or make more than three (3) appearances as a pitcher in combining the total innings or appearances in any four (4) consecutive calendar day period. An appearance on the mound will be governed by playing regulations. Any pitcher may be removed as a pitcher and still remain in the game at another position. However, if a pitcher is removed automatically when the manager or coach makes two (2) trips to the mound in the same inning, that pitcher cannot return as a pitcher in that game. Should a double or triple play cause a pitcher to exceed the permitted ten (10) innings in four (4) consecutive calendar days, the action in itself for the purpose of this rule, shall not be constructed as a violation of this rule. Any team in violation of this rule will cause the game (s) to be forfeited in which the player illegally pitched. (It is suggested that coaches limit the number of pitches to 100 per 7 innings.)

Example:

To determine the innings and appearances used and what innings remain for each pitcher:

On Tuesday - Count all pitching and appearances for Tuesday.

On Wednesday - Count all pitching and appearances for Tuesday and Wednesday.

On Thursday - Count all pitching and appearances for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

On Friday - Count all pitching and appearances for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

On Saturday - Count all pitching and appearances for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

B. A starting player may be taken out of the game and re-entered once during that game, a pitcher must return as a pitcher the next time his team takes the field. A player must re-enter into the same batting position he had as a starter. This is not considered a charged appearance in accordance with Para. 19.

C The pitching rule will now carry over from Regional Tournament to the State Tournament. The completed pitching report form will be forwarded to the State Tournament Director with the rosters of the competing teams. If the form is not delivered to the state site, the team will not be able to play.

20. BLOOD RULE: If a player suffers from a laceration or other injury where blood is visible, the game shall be stopped at the earliest possible time and the athlete treated immediately. If the injury requires extensive treatment, a substitute shall replace the injured player. (Umpires are directed to give a reasonable amount of time to allow all injured players to be treated.) NO RE-ENTRY IS ALLOWED.

21. **Force-Play-Slide Rule.** The intent of the force-play-slide rule is to ensure the safety of

all players. This is a safety as well as an interference rule. Whether the defense could have completed the double play has no bearing on the applicability of this rule. This rule pertains to a force-play situation at any base, regardless of the number of outs.

- A. On any force play, the runner must slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases. It is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the base in the baseline extended.

Exception – A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the runner slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. Interference will not be called.

a) "On the ground" means either a head-first slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground.

b) "Directly into a base" means the runner's entire body (feet, legs, trunk and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.

Clarification

If a runner goes into a base standing up and does not make contact or alter the play of the defensive player, interference shall not be called.

Clarification

If the runner goes into a base standing up and is safe or out, but makes contact with or alters the play of the defensive players, interference shall be called.

- B. Contact with a fielder is legal and interference shall not be called if the runner makes a legal slide directly to the base and in the baseline extended.

Clarification

If contact occurs on top of the base as a result of a "pop-up slide, this contact is legal.

- C. Actions by a runner are illegal and interference shall be called if:

a) The runner slides or runs out of the base line in the direction of the fielder and alters the play of the fielder (with or without contact).

b) The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder.

c) The runner's raised leg make contact higher than the fielder's knee when in a standing position;

d) The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg; or

e) The runner illegally slides toward or contacts the fielder even if the fielder makes no attempt to throw to complete a play.

PENALTY for a-e

1. With less than two outs, the batter-runner, as well as the interfering runner, shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.

2. With two outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out and not other runner(s) shall

advance.

3. If the runner's slide or collision is flagrant, the runner shall be ejected from the contest.

Clarification

If the bases are loaded with no outs, a double-play attempt is made, and interference is called, all other runners must return to their original bases.

22. **COLLISIONS.** The American Legion Baseball Committee is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions with the catcher at home plate, and with infielders at all bases. The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid collisions whenever possible.

a. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly **is in possession** of the ball, the umpire shall judge.

1. Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (could the runner have reached the base without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the base was blocked) or

2. Whether the runner actually was attempting to reach the base (plate) or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder.

PENALTY: If the runner (a) could have avoided the collision and reached the base, or (b) attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

Approved Ruling 1: If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the base (plate), the runner may make contact, slide into, or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base or plate.

Approved Ruling 2: If the collision by the runner was **flagrant**, the runner shall be declared out and ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead.

If the defensive player blocks the base (plate) or base line **clearly without the ball**, or is not in the immediate act of catching the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a **delayed dead ball** shall be called.

Approved Ruling 3: if the runner collides flagrantly, he shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.

MALICIOUS CONTACT: The Baseball Committee is concerned that some coaches may not have explained to their players that malicious contact is illegal. The majority of intentional collisions occur at home plate where the catcher is blocking the plate. Runners should be instructed to slide directly to the plate, or away from the catcher, or to avoid making contact with the catcher especially when the defender is in possession of the ball. Any player who, **in the judgment of the umpire**, maliciously runs into another player is automatically ejected, and is declared out. Our umpires have been instructed that if there is any intentional and excessive force, or if there is any intent to injure another player, the offending player shall be removed from the game. Malicious contact penalty will be enforced whether committed by an offensive or defensive player.

23. The American Legion requires protective screens to be in place on practice fields as well as in batting cages.

24. No team shall be required to play more than two games in one day. Playing days will begin at 8:00 A.M., local time. A suspended game completed on the following day will not

count toward two (2) games in this rule. These teams can still play an additional two (2) full games.

* 25. JEWELRY MAY NOT BE WORN THIS INCLUDES RUBBER BANDS AND ANY JEWELRY.

RULE 2 - PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. PA Youth Legion baseball competition is open to all players who are amateurs and will not attain their sixteenth (16th) birthday prior to April 30th of the current year.

BORN DATE AGE

On or after 4-30-97 and prior to 4-30-98 = 15 years old

(Boxed) 2. Teams may have eighteen (18) players enrolled. In no case may they have more than twelve (12) players in the 15-year age group. The rest of the players may be any age below fifteen (15).

(B) Competition is open to amateurs only. To be an amateur, a player must not:

1. Receive money, favors, or gratuities for playing baseball.
2. Play with or against anyone who receives money, favors or gratuities.
3. Accept money or favors for reimbursement for time lost at work while playing or for expense incurred while playing.
4. Participate in an All Star Baseball Game not approved by the Director of Activities. (Note - District, Counties, Posts or Sections planning All Star games must contact the Director of Activities for approval.)
5. Accept directly or indirectly, or agree to accept money or any favors (also his parents, trustees, guardians, etc.), offered by anyone for his baseball services, past, present or future.
6. Try out with any professional team, without written permission of his coach, athletic chairman or Post Commander. (Major, Minor League Rule 3 (I) governs try-outs and merits of contracting with professional clubs.)

C. An American Legion player may render service to another team, other than Legion team, providing permission is granted in writing by his Manager and the Regional Director and filed with the Director of Activities' office, providing it does not interfere with a scheduled American Legion game.

1. Any Youth player who is double rostered with any other team must be present at his Youth team game above and beyond any other game. Failure to comply with this will result in a penalty as established by the individual League including possible disqualification of all parties involved. Teams who have players playing for other teams and have not been granted permission by submitting of the double form (AL 5 Rev.03) and the indication of an asterisk on their rosters will also result in a penalty as established by the individual league including possible disqualification of all parties involved. Double Rosters are not valid during post-season play.

2. Form #AL-5 is provided for this purpose and can be obtained from the Youth Committee Person.

(a) Dual participation shall in no way interfere with a player's responsibility to his Youth Legion Baseball Team. The Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport.

(D) Players age must be verified by means of a LEGAL RECORD OF BIRTH.

* 1. Record of birth must be by certificate bearing the appropriate seal or a certified copy of such from the Bureau of Vital Statistics or Department of Health or an accepted certified birth recording agency of that state. Official Department of Commerce certificates are acceptable. Passports are also acceptable.

2. In case of foreign birth, the player will present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service or by the Department of State, which shows the birth date of the bearer. Official birth certificates issued by a foreign country are acceptable when accompanied by an English translation. Military birth records (DD forms) are acceptable.

3. A properly notarized copy of that portion of legal adoption papers showing the place and date of a player's birth shall be acceptable in cases of foster parents.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE PROPER CERTIFICATION

Below is a sample of a Pennsylvania Certification of Birth. This and similar forms issued by a GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY are the only acceptable birth certifications.

***If the birth occurred in Pennsylvania and you do not have the proper Certification of Birth, the certification shown may be obtained by an eligible applicant from your local office of vital records**

The following ARE NEVER ACCEPTABLE AS LEGAL BIRTH RECORDS.

1. Baptismal certificate
2. Hospital certificates or records
3. School certificates or records
4. Xerox copies of birth certificates

Any team using these records will cause the player and/or team to be disqualified from further competition for one (1) year and the games a player participated in be forfeited.

(E) March 31st of the current year is the date for establishing legal residence within the State and attendance in school. Any player, whose parents or court appointed guardian moves and establishes a new permanent residence after March 31st, may submit a written request to play with a team of their choice. This request, in writing, must be accompanied by the parents or guardian's affidavit that the move is permanent and listing the previous and present addresses. It must be filed and approved by the Director of Activities. No requests will be accepted after the current year roster has been turned into the Youth Committee Member.

RULE 3 - TEAM AND PLAYER CERTIFICATION

(A) Each team must file an application for entry plus official entry fee together with the official insurance application and insurance fee, plus team liability application and liability fee with the Youth Director, no later than midnight May 1st of the current year.

The deadline for Youth Legion teams entering leagues is February 15.

It is compulsory that all Youth Legion baseball teams registered in the Youth Legion Baseball Program have Department insurance coverage, this includes health and accidental and liability insurance.

(B) The official entry fee is seventy-five (\$75.00) per team.

(C) All teams upon **INITIAL** payment shall receive notification of a franchise. This franchise is to protect their rights in the respective communities for the recruiting of players. Once a team receives a franchise it is in effect until it is revoked or the team is disbanded, without notification. Each year, upon team's payment of entry fee and insurance payment, they will receive a receipt form and this form will automatically renew the franchise. Each league shall have the power to change existing franchises whenever a new team is admitted into that league or to provide equal zones among their current team members. It was mandated by the Department Executive Committee that when a new team is entered into a league, when there is a Legion Post within the zone, that the Legion Post is given the opportunity to sponsor the new team. If the Legion Post does not wish to sponsor the team they must sign off on the team in a letter to the league, which will be forwarded to the Activities Director. The team may then be awarded to an outside sponsor.

(D) Each team must register with the Youth Committee Member, the team certification (Form #1 and #2). The form #1 must be filled out entirely alphabetically and typewritten. All Forms must be verified by the Youth Committee Member. He shall, after checking the forms, turn them over to the Regional Director who will sign and date them, no later than twenty-four (24) hours before the first scheduled game of the league. All Forms must be in the hands of the Activities Director no later than June 21st of the current year. Any team failing to comply with this rule will not be allowed to participate in league competition during the current year. Exception to this rule will be granted **ONLY** to those teams who have players involved in P.I.A.A. baseball playoffs. That registration closing date will be forty-eight (48) hours after their final P.I.A.A. baseball playoff game. No roster changes may be made on the Form #1 after it has been submitted to the Department Office.

(E) No team may carry more than one (1) Post on the team Certificate of Entry as team sponsor.

(F) No Youth Legion team may have more than 18 registered players, once the Form #1 is registered with the Department. Each team must be registered by Department closing date.

1. In cases of death a player may be replaced on a Form #1.

(G) All players must be under contract. A contract must be signed and submitted to the Youth Director for **EACH PLAYER** on the roster for the current year. Each contract shall be in effect for the player's current year's eligibility in their respective program. The yellow copy of the player's contracts, (Form #2) must accompany the team roster when submitted to the State Activities Director for approval. When a Youth player becomes eligible for the Pennsylvania Youth Legion Baseball program he must complete a new contract form. The Team Manager for his particular team must retain the original copy of the contract. A legal record of birth must accompany the contract for each player when it is submitted to the Youth Director for verification.

Birth Certificates will be returned to the team manager following certification. Teams not having completed correct rosters and contracts by the required time shall be disqualified immediately and all games in which the disqualified player participated shall be forfeited.

(H) It is mandatory that **ALL** players fill out a **CONTRACT**, listing **ALL INFORMATION** requested.

(I) Outside sponsorship is permissible, subject and approved by, and under the control of, the

appropriate Department Baseball Official or Committee and under regulations promulgated by the Department.

RULE 4 - CONDUCT

(A) Any manager, coach or player who conducts himself in an ungentlemanly or un-sportsmanlike manner in the opinion of the Director of Activities or his Representative (which would reflect discredit to his program) while participating in any Youth Legion Baseball competition, may be removed from further participation.

If there is an altercation between two players and the so called third player or any other players leave their position, the dugout, bullpen or any other area to enter the altercation, that in itself will cause that player or players to be immediately ejected and they will be disciplined severely. This also applies to coaches if their intentions are for any other reason than to help break up the altercation will be dealt with upon a written report from the umpires.

For violation of this section, person or persons involved shall immediately be ejected from the game, immediately suspended pending a written report of the incident and a hearing on the same. Violators will be penalized for their actions; such penalties could lead to the removal from further participation in the Baseball program.

(B) No player, coach, manager, or any party associated with any American Legion Baseball Team shall ride, abuse, heckle or make any uncomplimentary remarks whatsoever to any opposing player or team official. Any individual violating these regulations' shall be ejected immediately from the game.

(C) Any player, coach, manager, or party accompanying a team will be suspended for the remainder of the game from the time of rule infraction if they:

1. Use profane language in any manner.
2. Make any unnecessary gesture in protesting any umpire's decision (only the team captain or coach may ask for a clarification of a rule, but never argue).
3. Throw bats or any other equipment.
4. Make unnecessary gestures to fans or opposing players.
5. Resort to unnecessary roughness on the playing field.
6. Hazing or any form of initiation will not be tolerated. The league will set penalties for this purpose.

(D) The use of any form of tobacco by a player, coach, manager or umpire while on the playing field is prohibited. Any violation of this rule will cause the individual and the team manager to be removed from the game. For the purpose of this rule, dugouts and/or player benches and bullpens will also be considered part of the playing field. The manager will not be removed if an umpire commits the infraction.

(E) Any player, manager, coach ejected by an umpire from any game, must leave the confines of the ballpark.

(F) Aerosol, gas, battery or electric operated air horns or other noisemakers will be prohibited at all games. Fans or players who operate such devices shall be ordered by the home team to cease such operation immediately or face removal from the ballpark.

(G) The home team shall be responsible for proper fan discipline at all games. If the home team refuses their responsibility in any game, the umpire may cause the game to be forfeited.

(H) Any person who has been charged with a crime which constitutes a misdemeanor or felony under 18 PA C.S. ("The Crimes Code") or Act 64 ("The Controlled Substance Drug Device and

Cosmetic Act") or similar statute or another State's criminal statutes, shall be suspended by the Activities Director or his representative pending the outcome of legal proceedings.

1. Upon conviction or a plea of guilty or a plea of no contest, the managers, coaches and officials will be dropped from the list of approved managers, coaches and officials.

2. Upon acquittal, dismissal of the charges, or entry into, and successful completion of an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (A.R.D) program, the managers, coaches or officials upon application to the director or representative shall be reinstated or reapply, may either be reinstated by the director or his representative, or if not reinstated shall be notified of the opportunity for a hearing by the director or the representative, to determine whether he is to be reinstated or to remain suspended from the list of approved managers, coaches and officials.

3. The Activities Director or his representative may suspend managers, coaches and officials who will not co-operate with the Youth Legion program or who pursue a course of action where in the judgment of the Activities Director or his representative that is detrimental to the welfare of the program or members where of - who conduct themselves off or on the field in a manner not conducive to the best interest of the Youth Legion Baseball program or who will not comply with the regulations pertaining to the rules of the Youth Legion Baseball program.

RULE 5 - RECRUITING AREAS

The area from which a team may recruit its players is a zone assigned that team by a Committee of not less than five (5) individuals selected by the league President or Chairman.

At no time will the total population of any team's recruiting area exceed 50,000 people according to the latest available United States Census.

All zones must be approved by the League and Youth Committee Member. Zoning of cities with 100,000 population or more shall be established by the Director of Activities.

YOUTH Legion teams will have the same boundaries or tracts as the Senior Legion team in their league. Teams will not exceed League boundaries or population limits.

When a new Youth Legion team is formed where a Senior Legion team exists and the open territory had been taken by adjoining Youth Legion team(s), they will relinquish that territory or tracts to the new team.

(A) A player must play for the team recruited from his **legal residence**. For the purpose of this rule, a player's legal residence is determined by his parents permanent and legal residence as of March 31st of the current year.

1. If the parents or guardian should move to another residence within the state or if zoning in the player's area should change, the player has to option to:

a) continue with his original team or

b) sign a new contract with the team in the new area or zone in which he now resides.

c) he must do so in writing to the Youth Committee Member:

(1) designating his preference as to which team he desires to play with before the start of the season

(2) a copy of the letter be sent to the Activities Director.

(3) the players declaration shall be final and valid for the remainder of the player's eligibility.

2. Players, through no fault of their own, unable to complete their eligibility because

the Post they last played for does not sponsor a team, may compete for the team nearest their parents' or guardians legal residence. If eligible to do so under enrollment limitations specified in these rules.

- a) Written permission for such competition must be obtained from the Youth Committee Member prior to the Form # 1 being turned over to the State Activities Director.
- b) Team declaration Form #76 must be signed by the Youth Committee Member and accompany Form # 1 for approval by the State Activities Director.
- c) A photo copy of Form # 76 granting permission shall be given to the Youth Committee Member, League Chairman, and Team Manager by the Youth Committee Member granting permission for the player to compete.
- d) The original Form # 76 must be filed at Department Headquarters.

3) Should one parent of the player be deceased, his legal residence shall be his surviving parents' permanent and legal residence. That player must declare in writing the team of his choice and file that decision with the youth Committee Member prior to the submission of the Form # 1 and a copy of that decision shall be sent by the Youth Committee Member to the Director of Activities. That decision is final and valid for the remainder of the players' eligibility.

4) In the event of a player's parents are divorced, that player may play for a team of either parents' legal and permanent domicile provided the acceptable address is the address he resides at on March 31st. the player has the option to:

- a) continue with original team or
- b) sign a new contract with the team in the new area or zone in which he now resides.
- c) However, he must do so in writing to the Youth Committee Member.

(1) designating his preference as to which team he desires to play with before the start of the season

(2) a copy of the letter must be sent to the Activities Director

(3) the player's declaration shall be final and valid for the remainder of the player's eligibility.

5) In the event that both parents are deceased or incapable of caring for and supervising of the player during minority, the player's residence will be determined by the domicile of the permanent legal guardian appointed by the courts having jurisdiction to make such an appointment.

6) a players' domicile shall be his parents, or court-appointed guardian's, permanent and legal domicile. Temporary guardianship does not apply unless a court having jurisdiction over such matters has determined the parents to be incapable of supervision and care.

7) Should a situation arise not covered by the prior provisions of this rule, the Director of Activities will, in his sole discretion, determine the player's legal residence for the purpose of his participation in the American Legion Program. In rendering his decision, the Director of Activities may confer with the Youth Committee Member whose zones appear involved.

(B) Any player attending a school in a location other than his legal residence, as either a commuting or residential student, must still play for the team recruiting from his legal residence as defined in the Pennsylvania American Legion Baseball Guide. If you live in Pennsylvania you will play in Pennsylvania.

(C) Once a player signs a contract with a given team, he is the property of that team until his eligibility is completed

(D) If recruiting is done crossing boundary lines, without permission of the Youth Vice Chairman, from where the player resides, the player shall be expelled and all games player participated in shall be forfeited.

(E) If the official residence is altered for a player in order to enable him to participate by playing on a team in another area, the player and the entire team using the player shall be declared ineligible.

(F) All teams shall have two or more publicly announced try outs. Either through the School or the local newspaper. Managers will have to prove announcements and provide sign up sheets.

(G) Waiver – may be granted to Youth players – HOWEVER

*the waiver is only valid for a single year. The next year the player reverts back to his original team.

*The player must request and obtain a signed waiver release form (Form AL-76) from the manager of the team from which he was cut.

*If a manager denies a waiver, the player has the right to appeal to the Youth Committee Member and/or the Youth Committee Chair in writing and their decision will be final.

1. The player will only be able to double roster with the Senior Legion Team that their parents' residence is zoned to.
2. If a player is unable to participate with regularly assigned team, the player may play for team nearest to his parents legal residence providing:
 - a. The player's regularly assigned team has a full roster and
 - b. Said player must have, according to the team manager, attended as least two (2) team tryouts before the final team selections were made.
3. The player may be permitted to tryout for a team outside the league, provided that that team is closest to his legal residence. Otherwise he must tryout with the team within the league whose zoned territory is closest to his legal residence.
4. No team that had 18 players or more tryout for their team may accept a waived player.
5. If no team within the league meets the requirements to accept his waiver, he may go outside the league to exercise his waiver.
6. The Pennsylvania American Legion in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Youth Legion Commission feels strongly that all potential players within this Youth Legion age group play Youth Legion Baseball. In order to help accomplish this, we feel it is imperative that "cut players" have the opportunity to play within the guidelines of the "waiver format" which is available in this program, rather than lose these eligible players to other programs. With this in mind, we strongly suggest that your League adopt a policy whereby teams that may accept waived players, are informed of players cut from other teams that qualify, prior to the turning in of rosters. We thank you in advance for your co-operation.

*Instructions for completing WAIVER Form AL-76

1. Waiver forms can be obtained from the Youth Committee Member. No other forms or letters will be accepted.

2. The player must complete:

- a. the top portion of the form as well as

- b. the "REASON FOR REQUEST" section of the form
- 3. The new Team Manager must complete the "transferred to" section of the form
- 4. All waivers must be complete and signed by
 - a. the player
 - b. the player's Parent or Guardian
 - c. the "waived from" (releasing team's)
 - i. manager
 - ii. League Chairman and
 - iii. Youth Committee Member
 - d. The "waived to" (accepting team's)
 - i. Manager
 - ii. League Chairman and
 - iii. Youth Committee Member
 - e. with final approval granted by the Director of Activities
 - f. a copy must be attached to the roster when submitted to the Youth Committee Member.
- 5. a copy of the signed waiver form must be attached to the roster form when it is submitted.
- 6. Waivers are permitted only when the combined enrollment of the two schools is less than 5,000. (High School Enrollment)

Q. Is it permissible for a Youth Legion Baseball player to participate in American Legion Baseball?

A. Yes. Providing permission is secured from the Youth Legion Team Manager and also providing there is no regularly scheduled Youth Legion Baseball game on that particular night and also that the player's name in question is on both rosters when submitted to Department Headquarters.

RULE 6 - LEAGUE RULE

(A) Any League in direct violation of any rule that appears in this guide or approves any rule with the intent to circumvent any of these rules will, at the discretion of the Director of Activities, upon consultation with the respective Youth Committee Member and Youth Committee Chair, cause the League's current year Champion to be disqualified from Regional and State Competition.

(B) All Leagues are required to have a constitution and by-laws governing team's entry requirements into the League, election of officers including the length of individual terms and various committees needed to successfully operate their respective League. The League may also include such rules and regulations that are not in conflict with the rules printed in this book.

*(C) All zoning must be completed on or before March 31, must be approved by a majority vote of the League. **ALL AREAS WITHIN EACH LEAGUE MUST BE ZONED. THERE SHALL BE NO OPEN AREAS.** Any League having open areas will not be allowed to compete in Championship competition.

*1. On or before March 31 of each year, each League shall submit to the Youth Committee Member and the Director of Activities, a detailed map showing the zoned areas of each team within that League. Each zoned area shall be colored, using a different color for each team and clearly marked with name of team. Zones may be changed yearly **BEFORE** the new season begins, however, each time zones are changed a new map properly outlined must be sent to the

aforementioned directors. If zones are not changed it will not be necessary to submit a new map every year. Any League failing to comply will not be allowed to enter State competition.

(D) Any team appeal concerning a zone decision by the League MUST be acted upon according to Rule 8.

(E) Teams in order to be eligible for Championship playoffs must have participated in a four (4) team League or more and have played at least a twelve (12) game schedule during the current season.

(F) All Leagues must report their current or newly elected officers to the Youth Committee Chair and Director of Activities no later than March 31.

(G) It is compulsory that Leagues utilize only those umpires officially registered with the Director of Activities into their respective League games. Any league failing to do so will not be allowed to have their Champion advance to State competition.

*(H) Each league shall report the name of their Championship team going to the Regional Tournament to the Activities Director and Regional Director by July 21, 2013. THERE SHALL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. Leagues not meeting this deadline will not be allowed to participate in Regional or State Final Playoffs.

(I) Leagues are required to have ten (10) or more teams enrolled in order to be considered to have two (2) teams entered into their respective Regional Tournament.

Youth Legion leagues must have six (6) teams in order to have two representatives in Region Tournament.

1. When a team hosts their respective Regional Tournament the league of which the host team is a member, will be allowed only one additional team to be entered into that Regional Tournament.

2. Some league champions with less than ten (10) teams in their respective leagues may be required to participate in a playoff with a league Champion of another league to determine who will advance to the Regional tournament.

RULE 7 - AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMISSION

EACH LEAGUE SHALL BE REQUIRED TO FORM AN AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING RULES PRIOR TO THE START OF THE CURRENT SEASON.

(A) The commission shall consist of five (5) individuals, not members of the League, but knowledgeable in the rules of baseball and the American Legion Baseball Rules.

1. People to serve on this commission may be former Major League or American Legion baseball players, civic leaders, clergy, etc.

(B) The Commission members shall be appointed by the League President with the approval of the League membership.

(C) The decisions of this commission are binding upon the League. Decisions of the commission may be appealed to the Regional Director as provided for in the Pennsylvania Youth Rule Guide. IN ANY INSTANCE, THE APPEAL OR PROTEST SHALL BEGIN WITH THIS COMMISSION. THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR WILL NOT ACT ON ANY APPEAL, WHICH WAS NOT FIRST BROUGHT BEFORE THIS COMMISSION.

(D) Members who no longer wish to serve on the commission must resign by written resignation to the League President. Members who absent themselves for two (2) meetings of the commission may be replaced by the League President at the third meeting of the commission. Members of the commission, who resign or are replaced, must be replaced by a person meeting the same qualifications as listed in Paragraph 1.

(E) The following persons may not serve as members of the commission:

1. Any coach, manager or representative of a member team within the league.
2. The League President or Chairman.
3. Any member of the State Activities Committee.

(F) After the five (5) members of the commission have been appointed or elected, they shall from their own members elect a Chairman and Secretary.

1. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

RULE 8 - PROTEST AND APPEALS

(A) All protests and/or appeals must be submitted by the protesting team or player in writing and presented to the League Baseball Commission within twenty four (24) hours through the League President or Chairman.

1. After the game is played in which a protest is lodged by one of the two teams involved in the game. Any protest in this situation shall only be acted upon by the respective League Baseball Commission. Their decision SHALL BE FINAL.

2. After a vote is taken on any non-playing situations at a League meeting.

(B) Any protest pertaining to Paragraph A-2 as printed above shall only be acted upon by the respective League Baseball Commission and must be accompanied with \$200.00.

(C) If the decision of the League Baseball Commission on a non-playing situation ONLY is not accepted by the team issuing the appeal, said team MUST within twenty four (24) hours after the decision is rendered by the aforementioned Commission, appeal said decision to the Regional Director in writing containing all the necessary facts and accompanied by a fee of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), certified check or money order. **THIS FEE WILL NOT BE RETURNED.** The team or teams involved in the appeal may be present at the hearing when and where called by the Youth Committee Member. The Appeals Committee shall consist of the Youth Committee Member, Youth Committee Chair or Vice Chairman and a League President or Chairman or Youth Committee Member from another League.

(D) If the decision of the appeal hearing conducted by the Youth Committee is not accepted by a team, the following shall prevail:

1. Within twenty four (24) hours from the time decisions of the Appeals Committee is issued, a team may appeal said decision to the Director of Activities. Such appeal may be by telegram, Mailgram or Fax and shall incorporate the precise point or points of contention, which are the basis for the appeal and be accompanied by a fee of \$350.00 by certified check or money order. **Fee will not be returned.** NO APPEAL SHALL BE HONORED WHICH IS NOT FILED WITHIN THE FOREGOING TIME LIMIT.

2. The Appeal Board shall be composed of: The Director of Activities, the Chairman of the Activities Committee and a Youth Committee Member.

3. All appeals filed under Paragraph D shall be directed to the Director of Activities, 800 N. Front St., Wormleysburg, PA 17043.

4. The decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and conclusive. The concurrence of a

majority of the members of the Appeal Board shall constitute the final determination of the board. There shall be no more appeals through the Department.

5. No appeal shall be considered by this Appeal Board until aforementioned procedures of this rule under Paragraph A, B and C have been exhausted, as certified in writing by the individual in charge of said hearing.

6. All fees for hearings are non-refundable.

The Department Activities Committee shall have the power to disqualify, suspend or remove any Manager, Coach, Player or Team violating any of these rules or other rules established within their jurisdiction. If such a situation arises, the Youth Committee Member in concurrence with the Vice Chairman shall have the authority to disqualify the entire team and the games won will be forfeited.

RULE 9 - TOURNAMENTS

(A) REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS

1. The Department Activities Committee may prescribe such rules for the playing of Regional and State Final Tournament games as it considers necessary.

2. The Regional Tournaments and Final Championship game will be played in the community selected by the Department Activities Director.

3. Each team upon arrival in the Tournament city shall post with the Director, a \$100.00 check in the Regional and a \$200.00 check in the State Finals as a forfeit and/or damage fee. Should there be any damage, the cost will be deducted from the deposit and the funds remaining will be returned. Any team entered in the Tournament that forfeits a game will be disqualified from that Tournament immediately and forfeit their \$100.00 or \$200.00 deposit.

4. Each team not to exceed eighteen (18) players must be accompanied by at least two (2) certified adults who will be responsible for the conduct of the players both on and off the field at all times and see that they return promptly to their homes after being eliminated from the Tournament.

THE CONDUCT OF THE ENTIRE TEAM IS THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE REGISTERED TEAM MANAGER.

a. The manager shall instruct his team as to the rules made by the committee (both written and verbal) concerning the conduct of the team while in the Championship City.

b. Specific conduct rules concerning activities in the housing area (both written and verbal) must be strictly enforced.

c. Any breach of the conduct rules will result in the disqualification of the entire team, and the team may be required to vacate the housing. Also, may lead to suspension of the manager from further involvement in Pennsylvania Youth Legion Baseball.

5. The Regional and State Tournament will be scheduled on a two-game loss elimination, weather permitting.

6. All State Finals and Regional Tournament games will consist of scheduled seven (7) innings according to Rule 4.10, 4.11 and 4.12 of the Official Baseball Rules with the following exceptions:

Games called because of darkness or rain before 7 innings have been completed shall be called a suspended game and shall be played from the point of suspension. The game shall be considered suspended and picked up the next day or the following day after that from the point

of suspension.

- (a) The pitcher will be charged for innings pitched on the first day. Innings pitched on the following day will be charged on the day pitched. One appearance will be charged unless pitchers change.
- (b) A suspended game completed on the following day will not count toward two (2) games in Rule 1. These teams can still play an additional two (2) full games.

All Youth State Finals and Regional Tournament games will be scheduled seven (7) innings. A pitcher must return as a pitcher the next time the team takes the field. This is not considered a charged appearance in accordance with Rule 1, Para. 19.

7. The adult Team Manager will deal directly with the Tournament Committee on all questions pertaining to tournament protest, etc. for decision by the Tournament Committee and this decision to be decided on immediately before play progresses. A protest will be settled on the field and no appeals will be allowed.

8. The Director of Activities shall decide the number of umpires needed to successfully conduct a tournament. These umpires shall be members of their respective Umpire Associations.

9. Suitable trophies will be awarded in each tournament at the discretion of the Director of Activities.

10. Teams are required to return to their homes immediately following elimination in the State Finals and must vacate Tournament city 1½ hour after being eliminated.

11. Admission fee to be charged at all Tournament games is recommended.

12. Any player, coach or manager suspended from a Regional or State Championship tournament game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct must report to the Tournament Director before being allowed to return to the game.

13. A coin toss will determine the home and visiting team. The winner of the toss will be the home team and will use the third base dugout.

EXCEPTIONS:

a. The host team in a tournament will use its regular dugout and bench regardless of home or visitor.

b. A team that has played their previous game on that same field on the same day will use the same dugout regardless of home or visitor; however, if the host team is involved exception 1 above will take precedence.

14. Any team that qualifies to advance to a Regional Tournament, upon qualifying is committed to advancing throughout the Regional and State Tournaments as long as that team continues to qualify to advance.

a. This commitment must be made in writing by all concerned upon the teams' qualifying for post season play.

b. Any team that refuses to advance, at any level for which they have qualified may forfeit their franchise.

1. A team may, with justifiable reason, choose not to participate in post season play beyond the league level. This decision must be made in writing by all concerned before the date listed in this Guide for leagues to declare participants in the Regional Tournaments.

15. 10 Run Rule: All regional and state tournaments shall utilize a 10 run rule after five innings, unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs or more after 4 ½ innings.

(B) REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

1. A Youth Committee Member will be assigned to be in charge of each Regional Tournament to act in the Activities Director's behalf. From tournament funds, he shall receive expenses consisting of Federal Mileage rate per mile from his home to the Tournament City, \$18.00 per day for meals, all telephone calls made pertaining to the Tournament and if necessary, lodging for the duration of the Tournament. A staff will be assigned to work with the Tournament Director. A schedule will be provided and shall be followed as closely as possible except where fields must be changed for crowd control or ground conditions.

2. A legal record of birth registration for each player listed on the roster and the Player Contract Form ALB#2 (team copy) for each player listed on the roster must be presented to the Regional Tournament Committee upon arrival in the tournament city.

3. There shall be **two (2) glossy color photographs that measure 5" x 7" or 8 X 10, in order of appearance** of the entire team, all uniformed alike, listing the names of the players on the back and signed by the team manager to verify the player's identity. The acceptable photographs must be turned into the Regional Tournament Committee. The photographs will not be returned as they must be sent to the State Tournament site, by the Tournament Director, immediately after all teams have registered.

4. The Regional Tournament Director will call the Director of Activities collect, no later than Sunday morning of the Tournament, and furnish him with a list of telephone numbers whereby he can be reached at the Tournament site. **A TELEPHONE FOR THE DIRECTOR IS MANDATORY.** (Other than a public phone.)

5. The Director of Activities shall determine the number of teams to participate in the Regional Tournaments after the closing of entries.

6. HOST TEAM in each respective Regional Tournament must be declared no later than JULY 1.

7. No team travel expenses are authorized. All youth teams travel at their own expense.

8. Umpires shall be selected and assigned by the Tournament Director. Only those umpires currently registered with the Activities Director may be used in the Tournament.

9. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, catchers, coaches or any person warming up the pitcher must wear a mask. Any person refusing to do so will be ejected from the game. Helmets must meet NOCSAE specifications and bear the NOCSAE stamp on outside of helmet.

a. Catchers are also required to wear a protective cup.

b. **Any catcher's mask that does not have an extended throat protector of at least two (2) inches in length is required to have an attachable throat protector. Umpires and tournament officials shall halt the game until this rule is complied with.**

10. In both Regional and State Championship Tournaments the Director will receive an allotment of up to 10 dozen baseballs. Upon accepting a bid and consecrating a contract to host either of these tournaments, it is understood that if more than the allotted baseballs are used during the tournament that the host is responsible to provide necessary baseballs to complete the tournament.

11. Every host team will provide a map-quest address for the field that is being used.

(C) STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

1. The Regional Championship Teams shall report to the Championship City upon receipt of instructions from the Director of Activities. He should be contacted at 717-730-9100 as soon as possible after being declared the winner.

2. A legal record of birth registration for each player and a player contract form ALB#2 for each player listed on the roster must be presented to the Director in charge of the Tournament upon arrival in the Tournament city.

3. There shall be **two (2) glossy color photographs that measure 5" x 7"** or 8 X 10 of team of the Regional Champion. The names of the players shall be listed on back of each copy of the photograph in order of appearance and signed by the Team Manager verifying the player's identity. These will not be returned.

4. The Activities Director shall appoint Tournament Director in the STATE FINALS.

5. The Tournament Committee with the approval of the Department Activities Committee will arrange for, and be responsible for meals, entertainment and housing while the teams are in the Final Championship City and these expenses shall be for only actually certified players plus two (2) adults. No substitutions for certified players or certified adults may be made. Bat boys and other personnel will be at their own expense.

6. The sponsoring organization must also house and feed the Department Staff.

7. Teams that are within sixty (60) miles of Host City will not be housed, will not receive meal money.

Team Manager will contact the Department Activities Director prior to making arrangements for their travel and must be authorized by the Activities Director before transportation is secured.

No travel expenses are allowed in the Youth Program.

8. Teams, while in the Championship City, will be housed by the Tournament Committee and will be fed two (2) MEALS A DAY - BREAKFAST AND AN EVENING MEAL - or the Team Manager will be paid money to purchase these meals for his team, whichever is decided by the Department Activities Director. MONEY FOR MEALS WILL BE AS FOLLOWS, \$10.00 FOR DINNER, UNLESS PROVIDED BY A SPONSOR AND \$5.00 FOR BREAKFAST UNLESS PROVIDED BY THE HOTEL.

9. A contract will be provided by the Department Activities Director to be negotiated between the Local Committee and the Activities Director, in the Championship Tournament.

10. All checks in regards to the State Finals shall be countersigned by the Activities Director and the Tournament Treasurer.

11. Since there is no banquet at the Youth Legion State Championships, all teams will have a coin flip prior to the start of the first game and each subsequent game thereafter.

12. Any Post, civic organization or community desiring to co-sponsor the American Legion Baseball State Final Championship games with the American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania should submit a letter of invitation to the Director of Activities at least two (2) years prior to the year they desire hosting the tournament.

13. While warming up a pitcher, either in or out of the bullpen, catchers, coaches or any

person warming up the pitcher must wear a mask. EITHER WHILE CROUCING OR KNEELING. Any person refusing to do so will be ejected from the game. Helmets must meet NOCSAE specifications and bear the NOCSAE stamp on outside of helmet.

a. Catchers are also required to wear a protective cup.

b. **Any catcher's mask that does not have an extended throat protector of at least two (2) inches in length is required to have an attachable throat protector. Umpires and tournament officials shall halt the game until this rule is complied with.**

14. Teams upon elimination from the tournament will be required to vacate their housing within one and one half hours (1 ½) hours of elimination. **There will be no exceptions.**

15. Any player or coach that leaves an Youth Legion Regional or State Tournament game to play in any other amateur baseball program shall be disqualified from further post season play. The Youth Legion believes team loyalty is a key ingredient for any team sport. Any Youth Legion Baseball player missing any portion of an American Legion Tournament, from The Regional Tournament all the way through the Youth Legion state tournament, because that player participated in another non-sanctioned baseball event such as exhibition game, tournament showcase, combine or **OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMS** shall be ineligible for post-season tournament play.

*** RULE 10 – RECISSION OF “LOYALTY RULE”**

At its meeting of Thursday, July 28, 2005, the PIAA Board of Directors approved a change to Article IX, REPRESENTATION, Section 1, Student Ineligible Who Otherwise Competes in the Same Sport, of the PIAA By-Laws, effective immediately.

At that meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to rescind ARTICLE IX, REPRESENTATION, Section 1, Student Ineligible Who Otherwise Competes in the Same Sport, of the PIAA By-Laws.

The immediate repeal of the “Loyalty Rule” means that a student may compete on an outside team in the same sport during the same sport season; and, therefore, are no longer required to obtain a waiver from the Principal of the student’s school to do so.

RULE 11 - UMPIRES

The Director of Activities must receive all renewals for the current year no later than April 1.

A. If any umpire fails to register and officiates in any American Legion exhibition, All Star, regular scheduled baseball game or playoff, that Umpire shall be fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) per game for every game worked. This fee shall be paid to the Regional Director.

1. Applications for new umpires may be procured from any Sectional Director or by contacting the Director of Activities, PO BOX 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105. They can also be found at www.pa-legion.com, under baseball program.

2. The initial fee of \$25.00 for a renewal member and \$30.00 for new applicants will be required. All checks should be made payable to: American Legion Baseball. If paid by March 3

the fee is \$25.00, if by April 1 \$30.00 and after April 1 \$40.00.

3. Upon receipt of an application and the proper fee from a new member, the Activities Director will send an examination to the applicant. This examination must be returned to the Activities Director within ten (10) days for grading. A score of 70% will be considered a passing grade.

a. All renewal members will receive a notice from the Activities Director on or about January 15 to inform them their renewal is due and payable. Renewal forms may also be found at www.pa-legion.com.

4. Upon receipt of proper fees, each umpire shall receive an arm patch, Penna. Youth Baseball Guide, a baseball rule book as printed by Major League Baseball, which is the Official Rule Book of Youth Legion Baseball and an official registration card for the current year. Additional patches are available at a cost of \$3.00 each.

a. Umpiring without a current year's ID card will cause a \$50 per incident fine, to be imposed on both the Umpire and the Assignor. Made payable to American Legion Baseball.

b. All umpires are required to wear light gray trousers, Official American Legion Umpire cap and black shoes while working in any American Legion baseball game. Umpires may wear either an El-Becco light blue shirt, a dark blue or powder blue pullover knit shirt with the current Pennsylvania American Legion umpires patch affixed in plain sight, however, **each umpiring crew must wear the same style and color shirt. EFFECTIVE WITH THE 2006 SEASON IT WILL BE MANDATORY TO WEAR THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL UMPIRE CAP.** Blue jeans or any type short pants, white shoes and team's caps are not permitted. Any failure to follow this rule will result in a \$50.00 fine. If wearing a jacket over the required shirt the jacket must have an American Legion Baseball Umpire patch attached to the left sleeve or left breast.

5. Umpires, once certified, are requested to become members of their respective Regional Umpires Association.

a. It is from these Associations that umpires will be selected to officiate in Regional and State Championship Tournaments. Regional Directors will be asked to make recommendations from their respective Regional Umpires Association to the Director of Activities for both Regional and State Tournament play. The Activities Director will make the final selection. **The fees to work Pennsylvania American Legion State Tournaments will not exceed \$50.00. (This does not mean that everyone will receive \$50, it is only a \$50.00 cap.)**

b. Umpires selected to officiate in the State Championship Tournaments will receive meal and transportation money from their home to the Championship city and return. This is in addition to game and any other fees they receive while working the State Finals.

c. Regional Umpire Associations may set requirements for membership and charge a membership fee.

6. All umpires are required to have readily, in all games they participate in, a copy of the Official Baseball Rule Book as published by Major League Baseball.

7. Each Regional Director and League President or Chairman will receive a list of certified umpires from the Activities Director no later than May 1. List will include name, address and phone number of each umpire.

8. All umpires are expected to be neat in their appearance, maintain the proper decorum during the baseball game and officiate to the best of their ability.

9. The use of any form of tobacco by a player, coach, manager or umpire while on the

playing field is prohibited. Any violation of this rule will cause the individual to be removed from the game. For the purpose of this rule, dugouts and/or player benches and bullpens will also be considered part of the playing field.

10. Any person who has been charged with a crime which constitutes a misdemeanor or felony under 18 PA C.S ("The Crimes Code") or Act 64 ("The Controlled Substance Drug Device and Cosmetic ACT") or similar statute of another state's criminal statutes shall be suspended by the Activities Director or his representative pending the outcome of legal proceedings.

a. Upon conviction or a plea of guilty or a plea of no contest, the umpire will be dropped from the list of approved umpires.

b. Upon acquittal, dismissal of the charges, or entry into, and successful completion of an Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (A.R.D.) program, the umpire upon application to the Director or representative shall be reinstated or reapply, may either be reinstated by the Director or his representative, or if not reinstated shall be notified of the opportunity for a hearing by the director or the representative, to determine whether he is to be reinstated or to remain suspended from the list of approved umpires.

c. The Activities Director or his representative may suspend umpires who will not cooperate with the American Legion program or who pursue a course of action where in the judgment of the Activities Director or his representative that is detrimental to the welfare of the program or members there of - who conduct themselves off or on the field in a manner not conducive to the best interest of the American Legion Baseball program or who will not comply with the regulations pertaining to the rules of the American Legion Baseball program.

11. **Force-Play-Slide Rule.** The intent of the force-play-slide rule is to ensure the safety of all players. This is a safety as well as an interference rule. Whether the defense could have completed the double play has no bearing on the applicability of this rule. This rule pertains to a force-play situation at any base, regardless of the number of outs.

A. On any force play, the runner must slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases. It is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the base in the baseline extended.

Exception – A runner need not slide directly into a base as long as the runner slides or runs in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. Interference will not be called.

a) "On the ground" means either a head-first slide or a slide with one leg and buttock on the ground.

b) "Directly into a base" means the runner's entire body (feet, legs, trunk and arms) must stay in a straight line between the bases.

Clarification

If a runner goes into a base standing up and does not make contact or alter the play of the defensive player, interference shall not be called.

Clarification

If the runner goes into a base standing up and is safe or out, but makes contact with or alters the play of the defensive players, interference shall be called.

B. Contact with a fielder is legal and interference shall not be called if the runner makes a legal slide directly to the base and in the baseline extended.

Clarification

If contact occurs on top of the base as a result of a “pop-up slide, this contact is legal.

C. Actions by a runner are illegal and interference shall be called if:

- a. The runner slides or runs out of the base line in the direction of the fielder and alters the play of the fielder (with or without contact).
- b. The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide and either makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder.
- c. The runner’s raised leg make contact higher than the fielder’s knee when in a standing position;
- d. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg; or
- e. The runner illegally slides toward or contacts the fielder even if the fielder makes no attempt to throw to complete a play.

PENALTY for a-e

- 1. With less than two outs, the batter-runner, as well as the interfering runner, shall be declared out and no other runner(s) shall advance.
- 2. With two outs, the interfering runner shall be declared out and not other runner(s) shall advance.
- 3. If the runner’s slide or collision is flagrant, the runner shall be ejected from the contest.

Clarification

If the bases are loaded with no outs, a double-play attempt is made, and interference is called, all other runners must return to their original bases.

12. BLOOD RULE: If a player suffers from a laceration or other injury where blood is visible, the game shall be stopped at the earliest possible time and the athlete treated immediately. If the injury requires extensive treatment, a substitute shall replace the injured player. (Umpires are directed to give a reasonable amount of time to allow all injured players to be treated.) NO RE-ENTRY IS ALLOWED.

13. COLLISIONS. The American Legion Baseball Committee is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions with the catcher at home plate, and with infielders at all bases. The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid collisions whenever possible.

a. When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly **is in possession** of the ball, the umpire shall judge.

1. Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (could the runner have reached the base without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner's path to the base was blocked) or

2. Whether the runner actually was attempting to reach the base (plate) or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder.

PENALTY - If the runner a) could have avoided the collision and reached the base, or b)

attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

Approved Ruling 1: If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the base (plate), the runner may make contact, slide into, or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base or plate.

Approved Ruling 2: If the collision by the runner was **flagrant**, the runner shall be declared out and ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead.

If the defensive player blocks the base (plate) or base line **clearly without the ball**, or is not in the immediate act of catching the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a **delayed dead ball** shall be called.

Approved Ruling 3: If the runner collides flagrantly, he shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.

Malicious contact: The Baseball Committee is concerned that some coaches may not have explained to their players that malicious contact is illegal. The majority of intentional collisions occur at home plate where the catcher is blocking the plate. Runners should be instructed to slide directly to the plate, or away from the catcher, or to avoid making contact with the catcher especially when the defender is in possession of the ball. Any player who, **in the judgment of the umpire**, maliciously runs into another player is automatically ejected, and is declared out. Our umpires have been instructed that if there is any intentional and excessive force, or if there is any intent to injure another player, the offending player shall be removed from the game. Malicious contact penalty will be enforced whether committed by an offensive or defensive player.

RULE 12 - INSURANCE

Any team playing in Youth Legion non-legion sponsored tournaments will not have Insurance coverage.

Teams playing exhibition games, other than Legion teams, must have such games on schedule at the beginning of the year and be approved by the sponsor, Region Director and Activities Director.

It is compulsory that all Youth Legion Baseball Teams have Accident and Health Insurance coverage as well as Liability coverage.

Youth Legion baseball insurance inquiries should be directed to: HDH Group Insurance, (717) 761-4010, 1-800-872-1127, or FAX 717-761-4320

PENNSYLVANIA SALES TAX EXEMPTION NUMBER
75402925

RULE 13

These rules pertain to the 12 and 13 year old prep program

1. The program will be called the Pennsylvania Legion Prep Program.
2. Entry fee to be paid to the Department will be \$55.00
3. Insurance will be furnished through the HDH Group Insurance Company and is mandatory.
4. It will be a 13-year-old league with no minimal age.
5. Pitching Rule: No player may pitch more than 7 innings or make more than 2 appearances in any 4 consecutive calendar days.
6. The Official baseball will be the Youth Legion Ball.
7. We will use the same bat rule adopted by the American Legion.
8. We will use the same uniform rule adopted by the American Legion.
9. Double rosters will be allowed.
10. There will be at least 1 American Legion certified umpire used; he will be behind the plate. The second umpire will be up to the discretion of the league.
11. Zoning will be flexible to fill team rosters for this program only. If flexible players are from another zoned area they must return to their home zone for Youth or Senior American Legion play.
12. Sponsorship of these teams must be offered to the local Legion post first. If they wish not to sponsor your team, ask them to put it in writing and then send that letter to the Department to be filed, or turn the letter in with your team roster (Form 1).
13. Unless specifically mentioned above, all rules in the Pennsylvania Youth Legion Rule Guide will apply to the Prep Program.