



2026 Michigan American Legion Baseball Rules

Insurance Deadline
May 15, 2026

Team Packet Deadline
Tuesday June 23, 2026 -10:00 AM

For Questions or Concerns, Please Contact your District/Zone Chairman or


Ashley Zimmer, Program Coordinator
517-220-2754
legion@michiganlegion.org


Tournament Schedule on Back Cover


CHECK LIST


The following information is essential to register a team for the 2025 American Legion Baseball Season. All teams MUST register their team online at www.legion.org/baseball and purchase insurance by May 15, 2026. All teams should send all information to their District Contact by June 19, 2026. District Contacts need to send their entire District's team information to their Zone Chairman (see pg.10) by June 21, 2026. Zone Chairman need to send all their Zone's team information to the Department Headquarters Office before the Team Packet Deadline of June 23, 2026 by 10 a.m. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**


January 1st-May 15th - Go to baseball.legion.org and register your team.

 Once your team is approved (after the background checks and abuse awareness certification are completed) use the username and password you created to sign back in and purchase your insurance as well as State (\$50) & National (\$75 for Junior and \$100 for Senior) fees online. FYI: insurance must be purchased before tryouts. So, the earlier you set tryouts the earlier you need to purchase your insurance.

 **May 15th 5:00 PM EST** - Insurance Deadline. Newly formed teams that miss the established deadline shall have until June 1 to purchase insurance without penalty. Should a previously registered team miss the established deadline, then they shall have "grace" period until June 1st at 4:00 PM EST to purchase insurance, but assessed a late fee of \$200.

 **June 19th** - ALL teams must have submitted their roster online and handed to the district (if no district then zone) chairman all necessary forms (#2, #76, #77) along with the \$10 per new player fee, \$23 per background check fee, team photo, written declaration stating which tier (A, AA) for their review. EVERY player on your roster need a #2 form COMPLETELY filled out along with #76 or #77 as necessary. **Teams should make copies of all forms for their own records.**

 **June 21st**- ALL district chairmen must hand copies of all forms to their zone chairman. The zone chairman will then certify teams as eligible or ineligible. District Chairman, it is in your best interest to make copies of any or all forms that you may need to refer to in a District Tournament for your own files.

 **June 23rd at 10:00 AM** - All zone chairmen must hand copies of all forms to the State Chairman for the Department files. Zone Chairman, it is in your best interest to make copies of any or all forms that you may need to refer to in a Zone Tournament for your own files. **Consequences for not having ALL proper paperwork to the State Chairman by June 23rd at 10:00 am is ineligibility.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO LEGION BASEBALL TEAMS SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL TEAM COACHES, MANAGERS

On February 14, 2018, Senate Bill 534 (2017) was signed into law and became effective immediately. The bill amends two federal statues: (1) the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 and (2) the Amateur Sports Act of 1978. Without getting too technical, this new law basically requires all individuals working with national member organizations to complete the Abuse Awareness course developed by USA Baseball for its members. This means all legion baseball team staff members need to complete the training. I have included information on this new requirement below.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING

To complete the required abuse awareness training required by our National organization simply following the steps listed below:

1. Visit <http://opportunities.averity.com/ALDeptMichigan> and submit your information for a background check which is also required. Background checks and training are provided through Protect Youth Sports/Averity.com
2. Once you complete the background check information, Department will run your background check and a link will be emailed to you to complete the required abuse training. The email will come from message@protectingourkids.com and will be titled "Child Safety Training". Click the link and follow the instructions.
3. The training takes approximately 30 minutes. You must score at least 70% or higher on the short quiz that follows the training in order to pass. Upon passing the training you will be able to print your certificate for your records. You do NOT need to send a copy to Department as we will be automatically notified if you pass or fail. You are allowed to retake the quiz if you happen to fail/score under 70%.

Questions or concerns regarding this required training and/or background checks should be directed to the Program Coordinator, Ashley Zimmer, via legion@michiganlegion.org or phone 517-220-2754.

The Department Baseball Committee has approved the following rule changes and additions for the 2026 American Legion Baseball season: Review the rule book in its entirety to ensure you are familiar with all the changes.

Rule 15: replaced "his" with "their".

Rule 18: Added sub-rule "A" which reads "A. Additionally: Any Coach/Manager while at a field for a game or practice overheard using foul or abusive language towards any player, coach or umpire, before, during or after a game will be suspended for 5 games. Coaches and Managers are supposed to setting an example for these young boys to follow. That kind of language cannot and will not be allowed or excepted during any American Legion Baseball game at any level. If a second incident should take place in the same season, that Coach/Manager will be "Banned" for 5 years from any involvement with any American Legion Youth Program."

Rule 19: added "that is "in good standing" after member.

Rule 23: changed to read: "The State Tournament for class AA shall be comprised of 6 or 8 teams: A host team and the 5 Zone Champions. If a Zone has no represented team, that slot shall be filled by the Zone with the most registered teams. The remaining slots for the tournament shall be selected on the basis of most registered teams. The State Committee shall determine the seating of the non-Zone champion teams. If two Zones have the same number of registered teams, the second determination shall be the most registered teams in Class AA. If there is still a tie, a flip of the coin shall determine which Zone is selected."

Rule 26: replaced "chain of command" with "flow of information".

Rule 27.A: changed both "7,500" to "2,500".

Rule 27.C: added "District and/or" prior to the word "Zone".

Rule 27.E: added "District and" prior to the work "Zone".

Rule 27.G: changed "#23" to "#22"

Rule 32: Added "These games are NOT required to be against other American Legion Teams, they can be teams from other States, but MUST be of the same 'age' bracket of the "AA" or "A" team."

Added Rule 33: "Any Legion team that is under the 7,500-student population, can if they so choose to play in "AA" or Sr. level baseball. They will play at that level for the entire season and post season."

2026 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT BASEBALL RULES

PREAMBLE

THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT BASEBALL COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL AMERICANISM COMMISSION IN ITS ANNUAL PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL RULE BOOK INCLUDING THE TOURNAMENT RULES & POLICIES MANUAL AND THE UNPIRES MANUAL. ALL OF THE DOCUMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE NATIONAL WEBSITE: www.legion.org/baseball. THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT BASEBALL COMMITTEE WILL ADHERE TO THOSE RULES EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY MODIFIED BY THE RULES LISTED BELOW. WE ENCOURAGE ALL COACHES TO READ AND FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE COMPLETE NATIONAL RULE BOOK.

1. All team entry forms, with supporting documentation for individual players, must be directly sent to their respective District Chairman to be checked and sign all team paper work by Friday, June 19th, 2026. The District Baseball Chairman or the team manager must send all team paper work to their respective Zone Baseball Chairman to check and sign all paper work before submitting to American Legion's State Headquarters at 212 N. Verlinden Ave. Lansing, MI 48915 by June 23rd, 2026, by 10:00a.m.
 - A. New players shall be assessed a \$10 registration fee to be submitted with paperwork. This is a onetime cost and will cover the player for the remainder of his eligibility.
 - B. Background check fee for \$23 per check (\$13 upgraded search plus \$10 statewide search) completed is to be submitted with paperwork. This is an annual cost as background checks are required for coaches and managers yearly.
2. All District and Zone winners shall be certified as winners by the District and Zone Chairman immediately via telephone/email to the Department Headquarters and by a signed fax to Department Headquarters within 24 hours of the close of their Tournament.
3. Any team found to have an ineligible player will be suspended from District, Zone and State play and will forfeit all games that player played in, as well as, any moneys due them. The eligibility of players can be protested at any time with documentary proof. Proof of residence and age will be done before District, Zone and State play. Driver's license or Michigan picture identification card will be used for verification.
 - A. All other protests will be decided at the time of irregularity (before play is resumed) by the umpires and the committee in charge of the tournament.
 - B. Appeals of rule decisions will be reviewed by chief umpire with input from Department Baseball Committee and the Michigan and National Rule Books.

4. The zone tournament shall have no host. The zone tournament shall be rotated from district to district. The zone chair shall declare the specific district location before the district tournament begins.
5. Weather permitting, District Tournaments shall be completed 3 days before the Zone Tournament and the Zone Tournaments shall be completed 3 days before the State Tournament.
6. If the host of the state tournament wins their zone tournament, the runner-up of that zone shall also advance to the state tournament guaranteeing a 6 or 8-team state tournament.
7. There shall be three (3) umpires per games of State Tournament play and four (4) umpires for the potential last, and final game for both Class A & Class AA.
8. At the fall state convention, the Department Baseball Chairman shall make a recommendation the State Baseball Committee as to an Umpire in Chief. Umpire in Chief will be responsible for securing 6 umpires, 1 from each zone, if possible.
9. The Department Tournament dates and location will be announced by the Department Baseball Chairman at the Fall Conference.
10. All teams are expected to be ready to play at the scheduled time. Failure to be present 15 minutes after the scheduled time, will result in a forfeit of that game.
11. Bracketing, as outlined by the National Americanism Commission, will be adhered to.
12. When possible and not disruptive to the tournament, the home team shall have the third base dugout. Warm-up time before games shall be regulated by the committee in charge. The host team field is a neutral field at any level of play and is controlled by the committee in charge.
13. Two adult coaches, in a like team uniforms, may appear in the coach's box. An adult must be in the dugout at all times. An alternate adult may be designated before Zone and State Tournament play.
14. Any American Legion Baseball manager who plays a boy in a regularly scheduled game in District, Zone or Department competition who is found to be ineligible under any Department or National rule, shall be suspended for one (1) year from the date of the infraction. He shall not be allowed to take part in any phase of the American Legion Baseball Program during that period of time.
15. The District and Zone Chairman shall have full authority in the handling of **their** tournament.
16. Post sponsoring teams in the Department Tournament are required to furnish proof of ability to pay for any and all damages incurred by members of their team when conclusively proven to be their responsibility.
17. Any manager or coach found guilty of jeopardizing any high school athlete's eligibility will be automatically and immediately suspended for one (1) year.
- 18.** The Department Committee adopts the national tournament "Conduct off the Field Rules" as outlined in the Tournament Rules & Polices Manual published by the American Legion Americanism Commission.

- A. **Additionally:** Any Coach/Manager while at a field for a game or practice overheard using foul or abusive language towards any player, coach or umpire, before, during or after a game will be suspended for 5 games. Coaches and Managers are supposed to setting an example for these young boys to follow. That kind of language cannot and will not be allowed or excepted during any American Legion Baseball game at any level. If a second incident should take place in the same season, that Coach/Manager will be “Banned” for 5 years from any involvement with any American Legion Youth Program.
19. A team sponsored by an outside organization must have an American Legion member **that is “in good standing”** as its manager.
20. Written parental permission for emergency medical aid must accompany each ball player at the Zone and Department Tournaments.
21. Recruiting for all teams will be under Plan B as set forth in the National Rule Book.
22. Beginning with the 2007 season, the state tournament shall be hosted by Zone 4 and rotated to each zone thereafter: Zone 5-2008, Zone 1-2009, Zone 2-2010, Zone 3-2011 and continue in rotation. At the Fall Conference, the following year’s zone host must declare their intention to host the tournament. In the event that zone declines the host status or it is determined there was no representation from that zone the summer just concluded, the state committee shall offer the tournament to the following zone in sequence. If that zone accepts the tournament, the rotation continues. However, if that zone declines, the tournament host is opened to the entire state and awarded by the state committee and the rotation resumes the following year (Example: for 2009, Zone 1 had no representation during the 2008 season. Zone 1 therefore, is denied host privilege for the 2009 state tournament. Zone 2 would have opportunity to accept the 2009 tournament. If they accept, the rotation continues; if they decline, their host status for 2010 remains). To avoid any confusion, zones will not be allowed to switch years.
- 23.** The State Tournament for class AA shall be comprised of 6 or 8 teams: A host team and the 5 Zone Champions. If a Zone has no represented team, that slot shall be filled by the Zone with the most registered teams. The remaining slots for the tournament shall be selected on the basis of most registered teams. The State Committee shall determine the seating of the non-Zone champion teams. If two Zones have the same number of registered teams, the second determination shall be the most registered teams in Class AA. If there is still a tie, a flip of the coin shall determine which Zone is selected.
24. Each team in the State Tournament must submit a \$200 damage deposit at the end of the zone tournament to be returned to them minus any charges after the hotel bill is paid. Deposit will be forfeited if the team fails to appear.
25. Each team is to submit \$50 state registration fee & \$75(Junior) and \$100(Senior) national registration fee at the time of online insurance payment.
26. Official baseball **flow of information** is as follows: Team, Post, District, Zone, State Baseball Committee.

27. Effective 2010 Baseball season, The Department of Michigan baseball committee shall create a second senior division which hereafter shall be known as Class A. This division will be based on smaller school population and shall adhere to the Department of Michigan Baseball rules and the National rules except as specifically modified by the following rules:
- A. Qualification to participate in Class A will be limited to registered teams with a total team registration of 2,500 students (10-12 grades) or less, unless a Post has a registered AA team. That Post can register an A team that same season and operate under the 2,500-student population rule. The A team must use the same base school as the AA team.
 - B. Upon the filing of the National form #1, a team shall declare, in writing, their intentions to compete in Class A, this shall be an annual declaration.
 - C. Post-season tournaments shall consist of a District and/or Zone level tournament with the champions advancing to a state tournament. The State Champion shall not have the ability to advance into The American Legion National Tournament.
 - D. For post-season tournament purposes, if a post sponsors both a Class A and AA, a player cannot be registered on both teams.
 - E. Location of the District and Zone Tournament shall be exclusively the responsibility of the District and Zone Chair.
 - F. The State Committee shall determine which zone shall host the first State Finals. Thereafter, the state tournament shall rotate in the same fashion as Class AA.
 - G. Host for the State Tournament shall follow the guidelines of the Department of Michigan Baseball Rule #22. The State Baseball Committee shall develop a host contract for Class A State Finals.
 - H. Only zones that have Class A registered teams shall participate in the Class A zone tournament with the winner advancing to the Class A State Finals (Maximum of 6 or 8 teams including the host).
28. Any team that initially registers, but fails to complete all proper registration steps to be a legal Legion team will be fined a performance fee to the baseball program in the increments as followed: \$75 for first offence, \$150 for second offence, and \$300 for third offence and any offence thereafter. The performance fee must be submitted to the baseball secretary BEFORE the team application will be approved.
29. No team will be able to register if they have an unpaid balance to the American Legion Department of Michigan Baseball Program.

30. Junior Teams:

- A. Junior teams may certify with Department and National by their deadline dates as long as they are labeled as Junior teams. Junior team players can be listed on both a Senior and Junior team roster in compliance as outlined in the National Rules.
- B. Junior teams are prohibited from taking part in regular Senior team Post season tournaments at the District, Zone or Department level. Teams are allowed to participate in American Legion sanctioned Post season tournaments for Junior-type teams in other states.
- C. Junior team players are required to follow rules involving Form #76 and #77 waiver/choice forms, if Junior team competition is not available in the Senior teams recruiting area, but the forms #76/77 do not restrict Junior players, to specific teams next year. (This allows Junior players to return to the regular Senior Legion team nearest their school or their parents legal residence).

D. For rules of play the Junior division may use NFHS (High School) rules, but must be uniform throughout the Department.

31. TRANSFER RULE REVISION: If Coaches from two (2) separate teams are unable to resolve a Player Transfer Issue then the matter will be turned over to the respective Zone Chairman. The Zone Chairman will then provide a recommendation to the State Baseball Chairman who will review the Player Transfer Issue and make a final decision.
32. Post-Season Play Rule: In order to be considered for post-season play, registered Legion Baseball teams will be required to play a minimum of five (5) games as an American Legion team prior to District tournaments. These games are NOT required to be against other American Legion Teams, they can be teams from other States, but MUST be of the same 'age' bracket of the "AA" or "A" team. For further clarification: District, Zone, and State tournament play is considered post-season. (Per December 2024 Mtg)
33. Any Legion team that is under the 7,500-student population, can if they so choose to play in "AA" or Sr. level baseball. They will play at that level for the entire season and post season.

Revised 1978, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2026.

Michigan District Baseball Contact

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>
<u>1st</u> – Vacant		
<u>2nd</u> – Vacant		
<u>3rd</u> – Vacant		
<u>4th</u> – Terry Myers tmyersmi@gmail.com	1707 Naomi Ln., Saint Joseph, MI 49085	(269) 921-0465
<u>5th</u> - Vacant		
<u>6th</u> – Vacant		
<u>7th</u> – Vacant		
<u>8th</u> – Vacant		
<u>9th</u> – Vacant		
<u>10th</u> - Mike Pergande mpergande61@gmail.com	2905 Mix, Bay City MI 48708	(913) 306-3780
<u>11th</u> – Vacant		
<u>12th</u> – Tim Walters cdrstubby1962@gmail.com	24625 Coppler Rd., Watton, MI 49970	(540) 809-8158
<u>16th</u> – Jeff McGinnis usmcjeff@yahoo.com	529 Emmons, Lincoln Park, MI 48146	(313) 550-1070
<u>18th</u> – Kimberly Lambouris klambo2@comcast.net	11892 Davisburg Rd, Davisburg, MI 48350	(248) 910-6769
<u>19th</u> – Vacant		

****If no District Contact is listed please use the Zone representative on the next page****

Contact the Program Coordinator, 517-220-2754, if you are unsure of who to contact

2026
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
BASEBALL COMMITTEE

DISTRICT AND ZONE RESPONSIBILITIES

Name	District	Zone
Jeff McGinnis 529 Emmons Blvd. Lincoln Park, MI 48146 (313) 550-1070 usmcjeff@yahoo.com	Detroit, 2, 16	1
J.C. German 220 Ash St. E Three Oaks, MI 49128 (574) 274-4359 jcgerman@comcast.net	3, 4, 5	2
Kim Lambouris 11895 Davisburg Rd. Davisburg, MI 48350 (248) 910-6769 klmabo2@comcast.net	6, 7, 8, 18	3
Nelson Cronkright 342 S Homer Midland, MI 48640 (989) 615-8990	9, 10, 19	4
Tim Walters 24625 Coppler Rd. Watton, MI 49970 (540) 809-8158 Cdrstubby1962@hotmail.com	11, 12	5

2026 American Legion Baseball Tournament Schedule

“A Program of Service to the Youth of America”
Since 1925

State Class A Tournament:

Adrian, MI (*tentative*)
July 22nd – July 25/26th, 2026

State Class AA Tournament:

Nicolay Field
Adrian College- Adrian, MI
July 25th- July 28th, 2026

Regional Tournament:

Lexington, KY
August 5th – 9th, 2026

World Series:

Shelby, NC
Keeter Stadium
August 13th – 18th, 2026