

The American Legion  
Department of Michigan Baseball



*“A Program of Service to the Youth of America”*



# The History of Legion Baseball

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What does Ted S. Williams, Yogi Berra and Reggie Jackson have in common? If you said baseball you are only half-correct. The answer is American Legion Baseball!

Since 1925, The American Legion has sponsored a nationwide youth baseball program. During these past eleven decades, millions of young players have enjoyed playing baseball. The American Legion and their 2.8 million members have raised millions of dollars each year for players to learn the importance of teamwork, discipline, leadership and good sportsmanship.

Did you know that more American Legion graduates have been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame than any other amateur baseball program? The number of former Legion players who have gone on to the pros is far too large to chart. More than half of current major-leaguers played Legion Baseball. So did almost every working MLB manager, along with several former commissioners. In all, 85 American Legion Baseball graduates have been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Now is your chance to get in on the action. If you would like to form a team for the 2024 season visit [www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball) to register your team online.

Team online registration begins January 1, 2024 and ends on May 15th, 2024.

# ***Why You Should Play American Legion Baseball***

## **LOWER COSTS**

American Legion Baseball teams are sponsored by their American Legion Posts, so fees are kept lower for players and families. You can even qualify for exclusive college scholarships that are only available for Legion players such as our Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship and National's Diamond Scholarship.

## **FREE COLLEGE EXPOSURE**

Most college coaches played Legion Baseball and know how competitive it is. It'll make a difference when they're recruiting you and they'll be looking for you. In addition, some of our games are even broadcast on national TV. You can't beat that kind of exposure.

## **WORLD SERIES**

At the end of each season (mid-August), qualifiers from eight national regions compete in the American Legion World Series held in Shelby, North Carolina. The Legion pays for your travel, hotel, and food expenses, if your team qualifies for the tournament. Many of the games are even televised nationally on ESPN.

## **LEGION HISTORY**

Did you know that over 83 National Baseball Hall of Famers played American Legion Baseball as teenagers? With an alumni base that includes more than half of current Major League Baseball players, American Legion Baseball is one of the most prominent and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues in existence.

# **Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship**

## **A \$500 Scholarship**



The Turner Scholarship was created to honor the memory of Robert (Bob) Turner who was born in 1922 in Woodsfield, OH. As a child, his family moved in 1935 to Crystal, MI. Bob served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II from October 1942 until his honorable discharge in March of 1946; reaching the rank of Sergeant. He was stationed on Seymour Island and received a Good Conduct Medal, Pacific Star and Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. In the mid-1970s, his oldest son Bryce played Michigan American Legion Baseball. Bob supported the team by attending many of the games and was a life-long fan of baseball. The schol-

arship was established to help young Michigan Legion Baseball players achieve their dreams.

The Turner scholarship is available only to Michigan residents who have graduated from high school, are on a 2024 American Legion Baseball Team roster filed with the National Headquarters, and who are planning to attend any nationally accredited college or university. Selection is based on the application information, the student's GPA of 2.5 or higher, and two letters of testimony (one from the American Legion coach or team manager, and the other from a community leader, school official or minister). The scholarship award amount is \$500. The winner will be presented a plaque from the Turner family at the State Baseball Tournament.

Visit [www.michiganlegion.org/baseball](http://www.michiganlegion.org/baseball) for more information or to fill out an application.

# **How to Register Your Team Successfully**

*All American Legion Teams must register on the National American Legion Baseball website.*

**Step 1** – Visit [www.baseball.legion.org](http://www.baseball.legion.org) to get the registration process started. You will need to sign into an existing account or create a new account if you are a new team. (Complete registration directions can be found on [www.michiganlegion.org/baseball](http://www.michiganlegion.org/baseball) under Registration Tips)

**Step 2** – The Coach/Manager/Administer who will be completing the team application online needs to successfully complete their background check. The Team application cannot be approved by the Michigan American Legion Baseball Secretary until all coaches listed on the application have passed a background check. If you need to add a coach to the team application after you have submitted it for approval you will need to call the Baseball Secretary at 517-220-2754 for assistance. (You will need to provide the coaches full name, address, email address and phone number to the Baseball Secretary in order for the coach to be added.) Those coaches will also be required to pass a background check prior to the FINAL Submission of the team roster with all its players and coaches.

The required background check for all coaches can be initiated at: <https://opportunities.averity.com/ALDeptMichigan>. Each team is required submit payment for the background checks (head coaches, team managers, and others) when they turn in their team packet to the District/Zone Baseball Chairman. Each background check costs \$23. (Ex: If you have 1 head coach, 1 manager, and 2 assistant coaches the cost would be \$92).

**Step 3** – Purchase the required Insurance and pay National and State Team Registration Fees prior to the deadline date of May 15, 2024 When you purchase the required insurance make sure to send a copy of your confirmation email from K&K Insurance to [legion@michiganlegion.org](mailto:legion@michiganlegion.org), your team application will not show that you purchased insurance until you do this step.

**Step 4** – Once you have added all your coaching staff, purchased insurance, and paid team registration fees, you will need to submit your team application online. Once your application is approved you will be able to add players to your roster.

**Step 5** – Add players and submit your roster on the National website prior to June 19, 2024. Once you submit your roster online you should print a copy to include with your team packet. Your team packet should contain a #2 form and license/Photo ID for each player, any #76 or #77 form as needed, Team Photo, payment for all background checks and new player fees (\$23 for each background check and \$10 for every new player), and a letter declaring which tier (AA, A) your team will be playing in. It is suggested that you make copies of the entire packet for your records. Team Packets will need to be turned into District/Zone representatives by June 19, 2024. All team packets are due from Zone Chairman on June 25, 2024 at 10 a.m.

# **Ten Tips on Starting a New American Legion Baseball Team**

- 1.** Do not wait until the last minute to begin the process. Contact your Zone Chairman (if known) or Department Headquarters to request a copy of National and State Baseball Rules. Read both sets of rules, paying special attention to the deadline dates. These deadline dates are important so be sure to make note of each one. Contact your Zone Chairman listed in the State Rule Book if you have questions. There are NO dumb questions.
- 2.** In late Fall to early Winter contact your local post to present your plan for starting a Legion team. Do not expect much, if any, financial assistance the first year from the post. However, they may be willing to assist in a fundraiser to help with the costs. Player fee and fundraisers are the easiest way to meet your cost.
- 3.** Visit National's website, [www.baseball.legion.org](http://www.baseball.legion.org), to start the registration process. You should do this early because you will end up adding and/or deleting coach and player names several times prior to the submission deadline. Do NOT hit the submit button until your entire team is selected and entered on your roster. Once you hit the submit button you will be locked out, preventing any changes from being made.
- 4.** Anticipate spending a minimum of \$3,000 the first year: Approximately \$400 for insurance (K&K is the only approved vendor), \$125 fee to National (\$75-100 for National, and \$50 for State) plus a service fee of \$25. Also, there is a \$10 fee per new player (18 players max). As a new team all your players will be new so the cost would be \$180. There is an \$23 background check fee for each coach, manager, and volunteer you will have on staff. The remainder of the cost will be spent on uniforms and baseballs. Review National Rule 1, Section V for uniform requirements.
- 5.** Try to select your coaching staff as soon as possible. A background check is required for all coaches, manager, and volunteers (cost is \$23 each). You will be able to submit coaches' names on [www.baseball.legion.org](http://www.baseball.legion.org) when you go through the registration process. The new player fee and background check fee is paid when you submit your Team Roster packet to District/Zone Chairman in June.
- 6.** Each team must declare a base school (National Rule 4). Make that determination early in the process.
- 7.** You will need a #2 Form for each player (2 pages). The best way to get the forms completed is to have a player/parent meeting late April to early May. Then if you add a player late, all you need to do is work with that individual player and parent.
- 8.** Determine if you are going to declare Class AA or Class A status (National Rule 4 Class AA, and State Rule 32 for Class A). Consult with your Zone Chair if you have questions.
- 9.** Make sure you list all your players on the National website (#2 Form). If a player is not listed on the roster, they will be ineligible for post season play and any potential insurance claim.
- 10.** You will be required to submit a paper copy of your roster with all the necessary forms attached to your District or Zone Chair. This is referred to as a Team Roster Packet. It should include a #2 Form for each player with a copy of their driver's license or Michigan Identification card, a #76 or #77 form (as needed), a team photo, and a check for the new player and background check fees. Make sure you keep a copy of everything you submit to the District/Zone Chairman.

***BECOME PART OF THE FUN, START A TEAM TODAY!!!***

## **2024 Timeline for Registering Your Team**

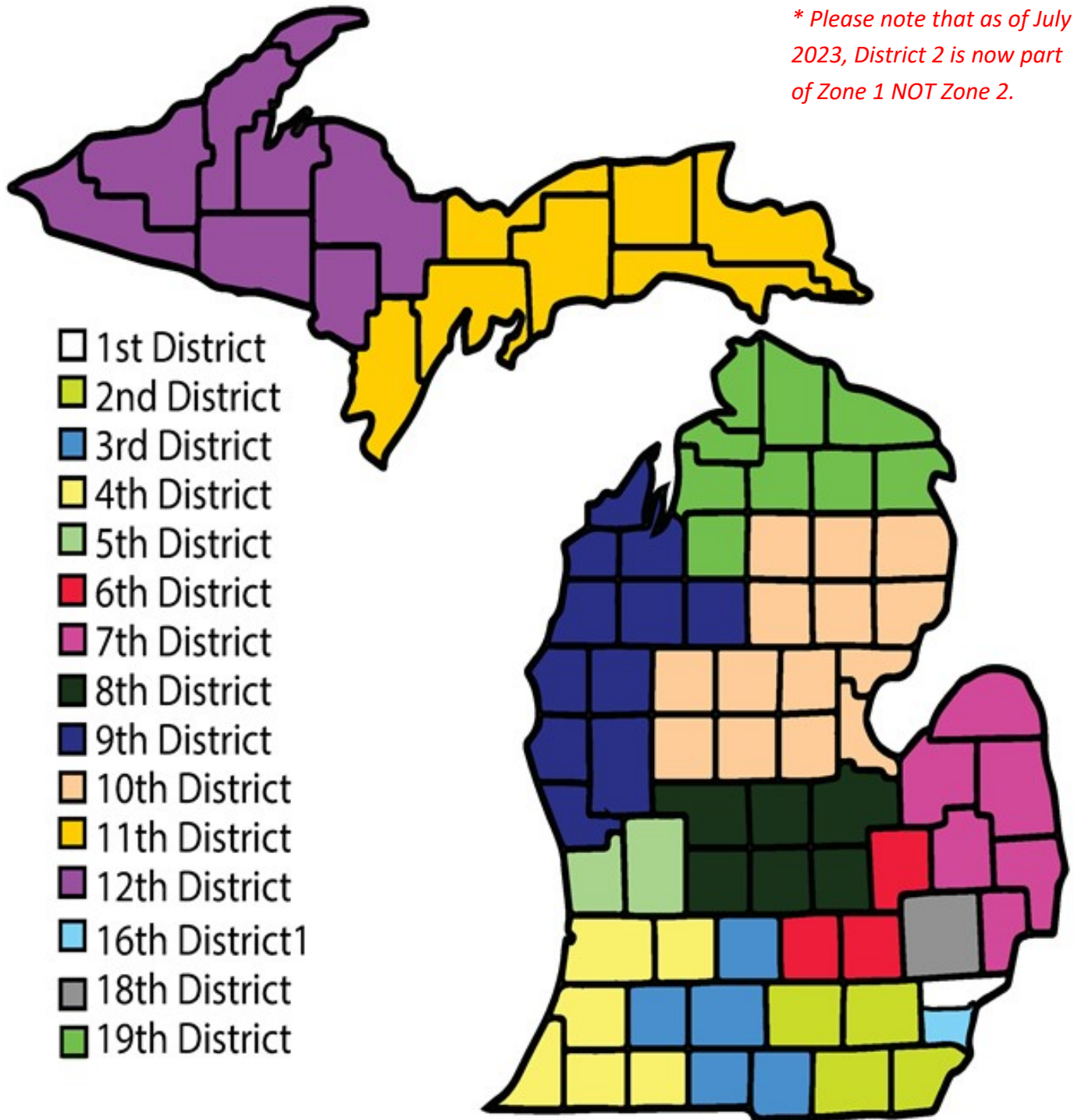
- ☑ **January 1st-May 15th** - Go to [baseball.legion.org](http://baseball.legion.org) and register your team. Once your team is approved (after the background checks are completed) use the username and password you created to sign back in and purchase your insurance as well as State (\$50) & National (\$75-\$100) 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 4:00 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 22** -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 25 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 25 at 10:00 a.m. is ineligibility.



## Michigan's District Map

Use the map below to determine what Zone you live in and who to contact to learn more about playing Michigan American Legion Baseball.

*\* Please note that as of July 2023, District 2 is now part of Zone 1 NOT Zone 2.*



*If you are not sure what district you reside in please contact Ashley at  
Dept. Headquarters, 517-220-2754, for assistance.*



# The District Baseball Chairman

## **District 1:**

*Vacant*

## **District 2:**

*Vacant*

## **District 3:**

*Vacant*

## **District 4:**

*Vacant*

## **District 5:**

Jerry Fennel  
512 Livingston Ave. NE,  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
(616) 334-5150  
jerry@28thstreet.com

## **District 6:**

*Vacant*

## **District 7:**

*Vacant*

## **District 8:**

*Vacant*

## **District 9:**

*Vacant*

## **District 10:**

Mike Pergande  
2905 Mix  
Bay City, MI 48708  
(913) 306-3780  
mpergande61@gmail.com

## **District 11:**

*Vacant*

## **District 12:**

James Cortright  
101 Mill Street  
Hancock, MI 49930  
jc963@hotmail.com

## **District 16:**

*Vacant*

## **District 18:**

Kim Lambouris  
11892 Davisburg Rd.  
Davisburg, MI 48350  
248-910-6769  
klambo2@comcast.net

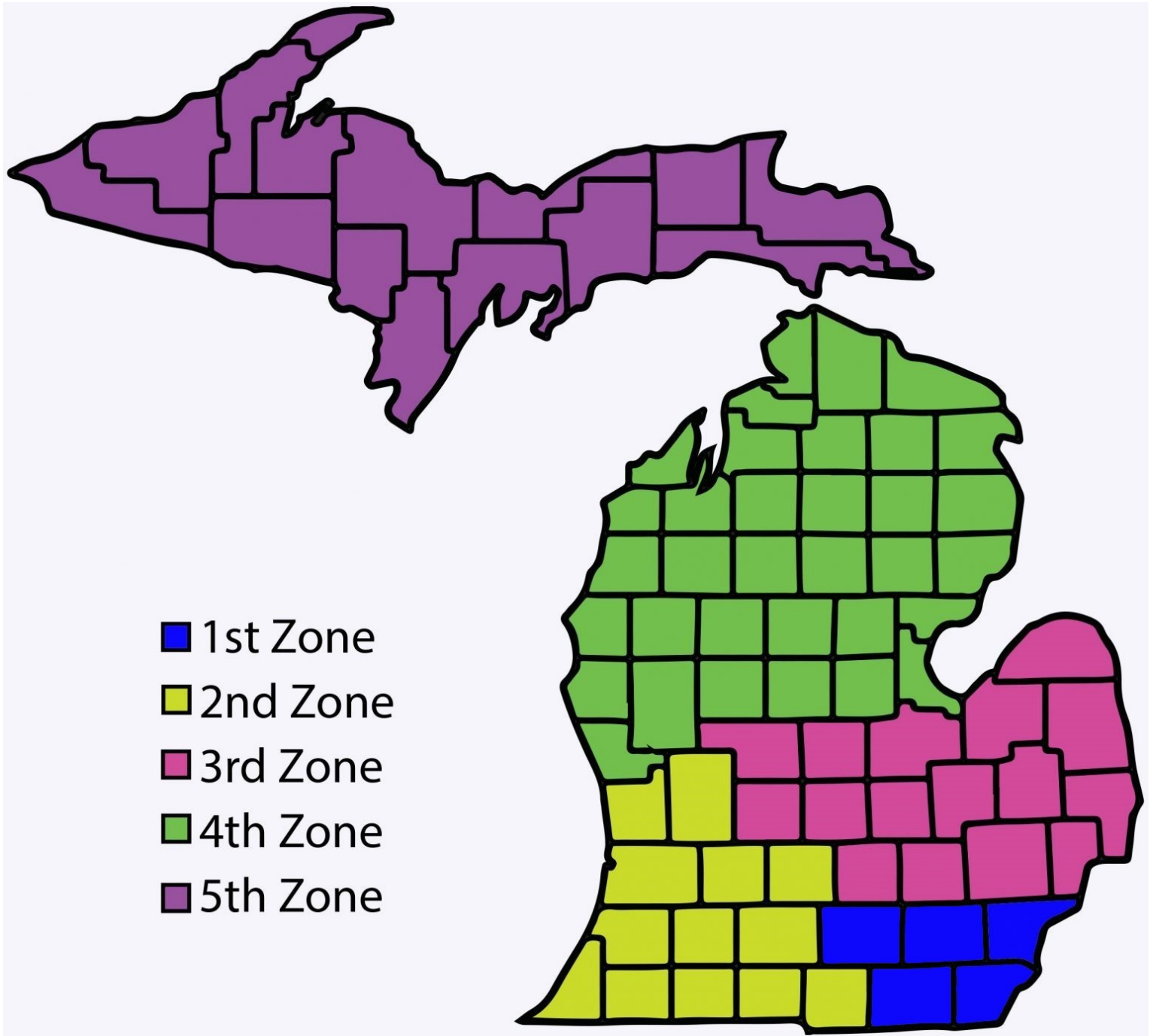
## **District 19:**

*Vacant*

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

## Michigan's Zone Map

Use the map below to determine what Zone you live in and who to contact to learn more about playing Michigan American Legion Baseball.



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*If you are not sure what zone you reside in please contact Ashley at Dept. Headquarters, 517-220-2754, for assistance.*

## **The Baseball Committee**

### **Zone 1:** *Detroit and Districts 2 and 16*

*Vacant*

*Forward paperwork to Department*

*Attn: Ashley*

*212 N. Verlinden*

*Lansing, MI 48915*

*517-220-2754*

*legion@michiganlegion.org*

### **Zone 2:** *District 3, 4, and 5*

*Terry Myers*

*1707 Naomi Ln.*

*Saint Joseph, MI 49085*

*269-921-0465*

*tmyersmi@yahoo.com*

### **Zone 3:** *District 6, 7, 8, 17, and 18*

*Kim Lambouris*

*11892 Davisburg Rd.*

*Davisburg, MI 48350*

*248-910-6769*

*klambo2@comcast.net*

### **Zone 4:** *District 9, 10, and 19*

*Nelson Cronkright*

*342 S Homer*

*Midland, MI 48640*

*Phone: (989) 615-8990*

*ncronkright@bettenbaker.com*

### **Zone 5:** *Districts 11 and 12*

*Mike Tricky*

*811 Pine St*

*Marquette, MI 48955*

*Phone: (906) 226-6404*

*vinson1917@gmail.com*

All insurance related questions should be directed to:

K&K Insurance Group, Inc.

# Past Department Champions

<b><u>Class AA:</u></b>	<b><u>Year Post</u></b>	<b><u>Year Post</u></b>	<b><u>Year Post</u></b>
<b><u>Year -Post</u></b>	1949- Flint 64	1971- Mt. Pleasant 110	2002- Midland 165
1928- Detroit 125	1950- Detroit 126	1972- Trenton 426	2003- Blissfield 325
1929- Battle Creek 54	1951- Flint 342	1973- Rochester 172	2004- Midland 165
1930- Detroit	1952- Flint 342	1974- Jackson 324	2005- Midland 165
1931- Detroit	1953- Detroit 187	1975- Pontiac 377	2006- Midland 165
1932- Detroit 119	1954- Detroit 166	1976- Garden City 396	2007- Blissfield 325
1933- Detroit 119	1955- Escanaba 82	1977- Blissfield 325	2008- Midland 165
1934- Detroit 119	1956- Detroit 561	1987- St. Joseph 163	2009- Midland 165
1935- Royal Oak 253	1957- Benton Harbor 105	1988- Ferndale 330	2010- Midland 165
1936- Ecorse 272	1958- Owosso 57	1989- Midland 165	2011- Midland 165
1937- Detroit 286	1959- Detroit 187	1990- Midland 165	2012- Adrian Post 275
1938- Detroit 286	1960- Bay City 18	1991- Midland 165	2013- Midland 165
1939- Detroit 286	1961- Flint 310	1992- Saginaw 22/439	2014- Midland 165
1940- Jackson 29	1962- Bay City 18	1993- St. Joseph 163	2015- Midland 165
1941- Flint 342	1963- Adrian 97	1994- Blissfield 325	2016- Bay City 18
1942- Detroit 286	1964- Detroit 187	1995- Midland 165	2017- Midland 165
1943- Flint 151	1965- Detroit 187	1996- Twin Oaks 204	2018- Midland 165
1944- Detroit 126	1966- Adrian 97	1997- Midland 165	2019- Gladwin 171
1945- Detroit 390	1967- Midland 165	1998- Berkley 374	2020- No season
1946- Flint 151	1968- Lincoln Park 67	1999- Dearborn 173	2021- Midland 165
1947- Detroit 495	1969- Pontiac 377	2000- Midland 165	2022- Gladwin 171
1948- Kalamazoo 36	1970- Detroit 187	2001- Adrian 275	2023- Midland 165

<b><u>Class A:</u></b>	2017 - Gladstone/MI Post 71
<b><u>Year- Post</u></b>	2018 - Gladstone/MI Post 71
2011 - Hudson/MI Post 180	2019 - Gladstone/MI Post 71
2012 - Kingsford/MI Post 363	2020 - no season
2013 - Hudson/MI Post 180	2021 - Marquette/MI Post 44
2014 - Gladstone/MI Post 71	2022- Trenton Post 426
2015 - Marquette/MI Post 44	2023- Trenton Post 426
2016 - Hudson/MI Post 180	

# **Important 2024 Michigan Legion Baseball Dates**

## **Team Packets Due:**

*June 25, 2024*

## **Class A State Tournament:**

Marquette, MI

*June 24-28, 2024*

## **Class AA State Tournament:**

Midland, MI

*June 24-28, 2024*

## **Regional Tournament:**

Wheaton, Ill

*Aug. 7-11, 2024*

## **World Series:**

Shelby, NC

*August 15-20, 2024*



**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL**  
**SPORTSMANSHIP CODE**

I Will:

Keep the Rules;

Keep Faith with my teammates;

Keep my temper;

Keep myself fit;

Keep a Stout heart in defeat;

Keep my Pride under in victory;

Keep a Sound soul, clean mind, and a healthy body



For More Information on Michigan American Legion Baseball Contact:

The American Legion  
Department of Michigan  
Baseball Secretary  
212 N. Verlinden Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48915  
517-220-2754  
[legion@michiganlegion.org](mailto:legion@michiganlegion.org)  
[www.michiganlegion.org/baseball](http://www.michiganlegion.org/baseball)