

**2008 IOWA SUPPLEMENT TO THE 2008  
NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION (SENIOR) BASEBALL RULES**

**TEAM MANAGERS AND COACHES:  
READ AND STUDY CAREFULLY. THERE WILL BE NO DEVIATIONS**

**Rule 1. National Rules**

The following rules from the 2008 Rule Book, American Legion Baseball, will be followed and enforced. Rule 1, 2, 3, 4, (Plan B), 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Iowa rules will follow the Designated Hitter Rule of the National Rules.

**Rule 2. Registration**

- A. All teams in the Department of Iowa Senior American Legion Baseball Program will pay a non-refundable **\$125 registration fee** by 4:30 p.m. on April 30, 2008.
- B. Teams will not be allowed to conduct try-outs, practices or play any games prior to the teams post/outside sponsor purchasing **Group Accident, Medical and Liability Insurance**. Insurance must be purchased from **S.A.VanDyk**, The American Legion's agent of record. See Insurance Rule (H.) in National Rule Book. Teams must purchase and show proof of insurance prior to **April 30, 2008** or teams will be ineligible to compete in the Senior Baseball Program.
- C. Teams that purchase S.A. Van Dyke insurance will be included on the Area and State Tournament schedules.
- D. All Senior Baseball teams must be covered by a group policy from The American Legion's Agent, S.A. Van Dyke. Insurance must be purchased for the entire season. The season begins the first day of try-outs, first practice. Teams violating this rule will not be allowed to participate in American Legion baseball competition the current year.

**Rule 3. Certification**

- A. All teams participating in the Department of Iowa Senior Baseball Program must comply with the following rule in its entirety. The original National Form 1 must be completed and all information must be typewritten. Each Team Manager must complete the Official Team Entry Form (National Form No. 1) and it must be received by **June 30, 2008** in Department Headquarters, 720 Lyon Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309; not later than close of business (4:30 p.m.). Postmark will not be a determining factor! Once this form has been certified by the Department Senior Baseball Chairman, there can be no changes made in the team roster, except as noted in National Rules (Rule 7.D). The original received in Department Headquarters will be the **official Form 1** and a copy will be mailed to each Team Manager.
- B. In completing the Team Entry Form, each player must sign his full name, showing first, middle and last name as they appear on his official Iowa identification. Iowa's federally mandated identification/driver's license system is officially recognized and

all that will be needed is a copy of the front and back of the license. If asked, the player **MUST** have the original identification at the game site!

- C. No nicknames will be accepted on Form 1. The signature should be on the same line and just to the right of /s/ for signature. The player's name and address, along with the other required information, should be typewritten in the line specified for each player.
- D. School enrollment totals must be signed by the certifying school official. If they are not completed in that manner, all forms will be returned for completing a new set. The copy of the player's drivers license/Iowa identification is due June 30, 2008. If the player does not meet this deadline, he will not be allowed in Area or Department tournament play
- E. Legal Residence is defined as the legal residence of the parents or legal guardian of the player. Such legal residence, as defined by law, is the precinct in which the parent or guardian votes.
- F. All teams must have a base school and an American Legion sponsor/co-sponsor.
- G. In cities of 50,000 or more population (2000 Federal Census) or where Posts sponsor two or more teams, the Post Baseball Chairman must furnish to Department Headquarters, **no later than June 30, 2008**, a city or school map showing all schools and base schools for each team. Teams not providing this map of school districts on time, will not be allowed to participate in the Area or Department tournaments.

#### **Rule 4. First-Aid and Medical**

- A. All teams must carry an adequate first-aid kit to all games.
- B. The Host Team of the Area and Department Tournament at each game will have access to emergency medical treatment. At least one member of the local EMT or First Responder team should be present during all hours of practice and play.

#### **Rule 5. Game Requirements**

- A. Each team must have a minimum of 35 innings of play as a duly certified team to be eligible for tournament play.
- B. No team shall play more than two (2) games per day (a playing day begins at 8 a.m.). No games will be scheduled to start after 9 p.m.
- C. If requested by the Department Senior Baseball Chairman or his Representative, Official Score Sheets, signed by both umpires, must be furnished prior to the Department Tournament. Teams will be ruled ineligible to compete in the Department Tournament if score sheets cannot be provided.
- D. All Department games will be nine (9) innings, unless by the consent of the Baseball Chairman and both coaches the game is shortened to seven innings. Games may be terminated after seven (7) innings by mutual agreement of both coaches **prior** to the start of the game if one team is leading by ten (10) runs.
- E. In cases where a game is called because of weather, electrical failure, wet grounds, etc., the game will continue under suspended rule.
- F. If it becomes necessary, because of weather or other causes beyond the control of the Department Baseball Committee, Department Tournament may revert to a single

elimination to comply with National deadline. A decision will be made as soon as possible by the Department Baseball Committee and teams involved will be notified as soon as practical.

- G. Players that are on the official roster must play through the entire tournament.** Players will not be allowed to arrive in time to play a second or subsequent game, if they were not present for their first scheduled game.

## **Rule 6. Equipment**

- A. Aluminum or graphite bats are authorized for all American Legion play.
- B. All players are required to wear a double flapped, ear protected helmet while batting, running bases, or on deck. All batting helmets must meet the N.O.C.S.A.E. specifications and bear the N.O.C.S.A.E. stamp on the outside of the helmet. Bat boys/girls must **at all times** wear a double flapped, ear protected helmet while on the playing field.
- C. Catchers are required to wear, in addition to normal catchers equipment; a safety helmet, throat protector and protective cup. For the purpose of this rule, any catcher's mask that has an extended metal throat protector is still required to have a second throat protector attached. **Umpires and tournament officials are instructed to halt any game until this rule is complied with.**
- D. Bat boys/girls will wear protective helmets at all times.
- E. When warming-up a pitcher, a third player will be present to act as a safety person, in case a loose ball or foul ball is hit in the area where the warm-up is taking place. The catcher WILL wear the same protective mask as stated in Rule 6.C above.
- F. Iowa rules will conform to the National standards that the coach has to wear a protective helmet while in the coaching box. He can wear a single, double or no flap helmet. If he does not have a helmet - that coach can not remain on the field.
- G. Another new rule will mandate the coaches remain in the coach's box until the ball is put into play. (For safety reasons MLB will not allow coaches to creep towards home plate until the ball is in play). Coaches must have both feet inside the front of the coach's box. However if the coach wants to move away from the plate - out the back of the box, MLB will not mandate he remain in the box. MLB again considers this a safety rule. If a coach is outside the box (closer to home plate) he will be warned once and 2nd infraction he will be ejected. If he is out of the back of the coach's box this is not considered an infraction.
- H. If the umpire observes any violation of these rules, he shall direct the violation to be corrected. If the violation is not corrected within a reasonable time, in the umpire's judgment, the umpire shall eject the offender from the game, and disciplinary action, as determined by the Department shall be imposed.

## **Rule 7. Area Tournaments**

- A. The number and hosts of the Area play-offs will be announced by July 3, 2008.

- B. Area play-offs will begin on July 27, 2008, and must be completed no later than **July 31, 2008**. If a weather delay is encountered, the Chairman is to notify Department Headquarters so information can be given to the other coordinators.
- C. The Assigned Baseball Chairman is responsible for the Tournament and must notify Department Headquarters of the winner within twenty-four (24) hours following the completion of the District Tournament. Area Tournaments will be double elimination. See Section D. below.
- D. A coin toss will be made to determine a home team at all Tournament games.
- E. Area Tournaments will be double-elimination. The Tournament Director may revert to a single-elimination if because of weather or other delays the tournament would not be completed in time for the State Tournament. Should it be necessary to revert to single-elimination, the Area champion would be decided on a win/lose basis.
- F. The Chairman in which the Area Tournament is being played will be in charge of that Area Tournament. The Department Baseball Chairman or his designated representative will be present or available at all times throughout the tournament.

#### **Rule 8. Department Tournament**

- G. The American Legion of Iowa Department Senior Baseball Tournament will be a four or five-team, double-elimination tournament, with play commencing on Friday, August 1, 2008, in Cedar Rapids.
- H. The Department Baseball Chairman and Department Vice Chairman are responsible for the Department Tournament, which will be double elimination, beginning on August 1 and ending August 3, 2008. Weather and local host may determine that the final game(s) be played on August 4, 2008.
- I. A coin toss will be made to determine a home team at **all** Area and Department Tournament games.
- J. The Department Baseball Chairman and Vice Chairman may revert the Department Tournament to a single-elimination if, because of weather or other delays, the tournament would not be completed by August 4.
- K. The Department Baseball Chairman, Vice Chairman, or their designated representative will be present or available at all times throughout the Department tournament.
- L. The 2008 Department of Iowa Senior Baseball Tournament will be held in **Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from August 1 - 3, 2008**. Any changes in the site will be the decision of the Department baseball committee by telephone vote.
- M. Teams will receive one meal ticket per day, and the Host will be responsible for ensuring each team manager distributes them to their players.
- N. A listing of local motels will be made available to all coaches as soon as practicable. Once eliminated from the tournament, motel rooms will not be reserved NOR paid for by the host.
- O. Each team that participates in the Department Tournament will send or e-mail a color photo of the team along with the official Form 1, or as soon as practicable for printing, to Department Headquarters. On the back of each photo (or accompanying e-mailed photo) each player and coach will be identified by uniform number and

name. NOTE: **The players in the photo must be the same players as identified on the National Form 1.** Photos will be supplied at the same time as the Form 1 for inclusion in the **Official Tournament Program**.

- A. A drawing will be held to determine the Department Tournament brackets as soon as practicable.

### **Rule 9. Uniforms**

Each player, manager and coach will have an **American Legion Baseball insignia** on his uniform. The insignia may be worn on the left sleeve or left breast of the uniform shirt and they may be purchased from Emblem Sales.

### **Rule 10. Protests**

- A. All protests on the eligibility of players in District play-offs must be made to the District Chair before the game begins. Department Headquarters cannot rule. The District Chair must rule on all such protests. After his ruling, either team has the privilege of appealing to the Department Baseball Chair. Such an appeal must be in writing (with full statements from both team managers) and must be made within twenty-four (24) hours of the District Chair's ruling. A ruling made by the Department Baseball Chair will be final.
- B. If a protest is made during Area play-offs, it must be made to the Department Baseball Chairman, or his designated representative, in writing. Telegrams are considered writing. There must be a statement from both teams. All protests must be accompanied by a certified check or money order in the amount of \$25. If the protest is upheld, the money will be refunded, otherwise it reverts to the Department Baseball fund.
- C. Umpires will have to notify both the player and coach with one warning of any violation of the rules, i.e., throwing of equipment or unsportsmanlike conduct, before ejecting the player from the game.

**Rule 11.** No District Chairman shall be permitted to act in any official capacity such as umpire, scorekeeper, etc.

**Rule 12.** The use of any form of tobacco or alcoholic beverages 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. Dug-outs are considered field of play.