

**WYOMING AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL
POLICIES and PROCEDURES**

Revised March 15, 2025

The following are the American Legion Rules and Regulations for the State of Wyoming, adopted by the Wyoming American Baseball State Board. These rules and regulations are intended to supplement the National American Legion baseball rules and apply only to the State of Wyoming.

PURPOSE

The Wyoming American Legion Baseball Board (Board) will strictly follow the National rules pertaining to American Legion Baseball and MLB rules. Wyoming has elected to issue supplemental rules to govern play within the State and through the State tournaments. In case of conflict between State and National rules, the State rules shall take precedence.

RESOLUTION 16

All participants in American Legion Youth Programs will pay proper respect to the American Flag of the United States, at all times, including during the National Anthem. If a particular individual (s) cannot or will not meet the organization's expectations of proper respect for the American Flag, that individual(s) will be immediately removed from the program and not allowed further participation.

NON LEGION TEAM

- All Wyoming American Legion Varsity Senior teams (AA & A) and B level teams (17u) in Wyoming are prohibited from playing non- Wyoming American Legion teams within the State of Wyoming. This includes single games, double headers and tournament play. Scrimmages are acceptable.
- The exception to this rule is at the C level (15u) within Wyoming, regardless of the affiliation, are allowed to play each other in a single game, double header or tournament play. However, C teams must be registered with National American Legion Baseball to participate in the Wyoming State Tournament.
- If Wyoming American Legion teams and Wyoming non-American Legion teams are in the same tournament that takes place out of the State of Wyoming, they are allowed to play each other if they meet in tournament play. Out of state non-legion teams may be invited to your local tournaments,

Violations of this rule will result in your team's expulsion from any post season play.

FORMATION OF A NEW TEAM OR REINSTATEMENT OF A FORMER TEAM

If you are interested in forming a new Legion team, please email the information below to albaseballwy@gmail.com and put "New Team Registration" or "Reinstatement of a Former Team" on the subject line. The following information must be included in the email;

- Sponsoring American Legion Post number.
- Other sponsoring information, if applicable.
- Is this a new team or an application for reinstatement?
- If reinstated, what was the last year of play?

- Legion Post Commander or Adjutants name and contact information.
- Legion team class (AA of A).
- Base high school and enrollment.
- Location and name of home baseball field.
- Team contact information (phone & email)
- Coach contact information (phone & email)

The Wyoming American Legion Baseball State Board will review your information for the following;

- Whether the formation or reinstatement of your team will have a negative impact on existing teams of good-standing in your area.
- Whether you can show sufficient strength to insure you can complete all scheduled games during the season, including District and State tournaments.
- Whether you can show sufficient numbers to insure the program's existence for three (3) to five (5) years.
- Whether you can show you have sufficient economic support to pay all associated playing costs, including but not limited to
 - National fees
 - State Fees
 - Insurance
 - Uniforms with appropriate Legion patches
 - Baseballs
 - Umpiring fees
 - Miscellaneous costs

The State Board will vote on whether to allow the application or reinstatement. You will be notified of that decision. The Board's decision is final. If approved, you will participate in the annual online team registration process which begins on January 1st of each year. All coaches and team administrators are required to complete a background check each year, and to provide a Certificate of Completion on Abuse Awareness Training from USA baseball.

All applications for a new team or reinstatement must be filed with the Wyoming American Legion Baseball State Board and approved prior to October 31st of the current year. Late applicants will not be accepted.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

- (A) All teams wishing to participate in Wyoming American Legion baseball must be sponsored by an active American Legion Post. It is recommended that each Post only sponsor one program. Teams sponsored by other organizations will not be recognized as a Wyoming American Legion baseball teams.

TEAM COMPOSITION

- (A) Each Post will field a varsity team, designated as either an “AA” or “A” depending on the size of the recruiting area. The eight largest teams, defined by the Wyoming High School Athletic Association’s average enrollment numbers for each high school within that team’s normal recruiting area will comprise the “AA” grouping. The rest will comprise the “A” grouping. These numbers will be reviewed on a two-year basis (even year) to determine their division placement.
- (B) A recruiting area composed of multiple high schools cannot exceed the National enrollment guidelines.
- (C) “AA” and “A” designated teams are considered to be senior teams and will be comprised of 19u players.
- (D) Senior teams may also have additional junior teams in the “B” and “C” divisions
 - 1) “B” teams will be designated for 17u players
 - 2) “C” teams will be designated for 15u players
- (E) Dual Roster players
 - 1) By National rule (2024), a team may dual roster as many players as they need to fill a 18 man roster from their associated junior teams.
 - 2) An unlimited number of players can be dual rostered between the Junior teams (B & C)
 - 3) A player can only be dual rostered once. He cannot appear on more than two (2) rosters.
- (F) No player over the age of 19 or under the age of 13, as defined by the National American Legion Age Chart will be allowed to play Wyoming American Legion baseball.

RECRUITING AREA

- (A) Wyoming will follow the National American Legion Plan B recruiting guidelines. All programs must designate the high schools within their normal recruiting area by March 1st of each calendar year. The normal recruiting area is defined as the town where the team is located, or the approved high schools that it regularly uses to recruit players. WHSAA average daily attendance numbers will not be used in determining the top eight (8) schools if any player(s) have legally transferred to another program due to:
 - 1) Being released from their original program
 - 2) Moving into a program with two or less years of remaining eligibility
 - 3) Loss of team in their original location
 - 4) Special circumstances approved by the State Chairman
- (B) The addition of another State approved team may change the recruiting area for an existing program. Existing players whose domicile is closer to the new team will have a onetime option to move to the new team. (see National Rule 4.1)

BAT CERTIFICATION

Wyoming American Legion baseball will strictly adhere to the NCAA policy and guidelines on bat certification. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach of each Legion program in Wyoming to ensure program compliance. Should a question arise during a game concerning a bat, the Head Coach should approach the home plate umpire, and the game will be suspended at that point. The bat in question will be compared to the NCAA listing furnished by the home team. If the bat

in question is not on the list, it will be removed from the game by the home plate umpire, and one of the following will take place.

- 1) If the bat is found to be illegal (not on the list) prior to the first pitch of that at bat, the bat will be removed, and play will resume.
- 2) If the bat is found to be illegal after the first pitch or after the ball is put into play, the batter will be out, and the ball will be ruled dead. All base runners will return to their original base and play will resume at that point. Be aware this could result in the end of an inning.

There will be no suspension of either the coach or the player, but the incident will be reported to the State UIC and State Chairman by the home plate umpire

Wyoming will allow the use of drop 5 bats in the C division. The bats have to be USA certified and marked to avoid confusion.

STATE TOURNAMENTS

- (A) National American Legion Baseball and MLB rules will be strictly enforced for all levels of State Tournament play.
- (B) "AA" and "A" are considered Senior divisions and will follow the national bracket. The "AA" winner will move on the ALB regional tournament, while the "A" winner will play in the NWCART tournament.
 - 1) Failure of the winning team to participate in the NWCART will result in a two year ban from Wyoming state tournament play and fine of \$2,800 will be assessed to that program. This fine will be assigned to the scholarship fund.
 - 2) In the "AA" and "A" state tournaments, the highest seed will always be considered as the home team. A coin flip will only be used if two identical seeds are matched against each other in the tournament.
- (C) "B" and "C" are considered Junior divisions will follow a standard eight (8) team double elimination bracket.
- (D) Entry fees are \$500 plus on dozen ALB logo balls at all levels, subject to change by the State board.
- (E) Protests will be handled on the field. Games will be suspended until the protest is finalized.
- (F) Umpires will be assigned by the State UIC for the "AA" and "A" divisions. The "B" and "C" divisions may use local umpires.
- (G) Run rules will be as follows for all State and District play;
 - 1- Ten (10) runs after five (5) innings unless the home team is ahead after 4 ½ innings.
 - 2- Additionally, for the "C" division, fifteen (15) runs after three (3) innings.
 - 3- Any game can be stopped if it is getting "out of hand" by meeting with the opposing coach and plate umpire. You never want to embarrass your opponent.
- (H) Location and Rotation
 - 1) The "AA" division has established the following rotation. Changes will be made depending on field availability and school movement between "AA" and "A" divisions. The rotation is as follows: Casper-Cheyenne-Gillette-Laramie-Rock Springs-Sheridan-Jackson-Evanston

- 3) The "A" division is separated with an East and West conference. A seeded three (3) game playoff will be held with the top four (4) teams from each conference qualifying for the State Tournament. The State Tournament location will be finalized at the State meeting each year based on an East-West rotation
 - 4) The "B" and "C" divisions are set up by quadrant. The State tournament location is on a counterclockwise rotation. The top two (2) teams from each quadrant, determined by conference play, qualify for the State Tournament. The hosting quadrant will only qualify one (1) team. The State Tournament location will be finalized at the State meeting each year.
- (I) Tournament Host Responsibilities will include, but not be limited to the following;
- 1- Provide a safe playing environment and full field prep before each game.
 - 2- Provide motel rooms for six (6) umpires and one (1) state officer (AA and A only)
 - 3- Pay individual umpires for mileage, fees and per diem as established by the State board.
 - 4- Provide scorekeepers, announcers and someone to monitor pitch count for each game and for the tournament.
 - 5- Keep a well-maintained facility
 - 6- Provide lodging information for teams six (6) to eight (8) months in advance
- (J) Minimum Requirements for Hosting a State Tournament
- 1- Stadium lighting meets current standards
 - 2- Provide a consistent playing surface
 - 3- Provide two (2) batting cages and two (2) bull pens
 - 4- Provide sufficient parking and seating
 - 5- Provide drinking water for all players and coaches
 - 6- Concessions
 - 7- Programs with team rosters
 - 8- Adequate restroom facilities
 - 9- Umpire change area
 - 10- Phone/WIFI
 - 11- Provide a media and state board tent or room in the press box.

PITCH COMS

Pitch coms are approved for all Wyoming state play up to and including the state tournaments. at all 4 divisions. One way pitch coms can only be used between the coach, pitcher and catcher.

PITCH COUNT

Pitch count rules adopted by the National office of American Legion Baseball will be strictly followed with the following exception: The daily cap for the "C" division will be 95 pitches. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in the Head Coach being suspended according to the established penalty chart.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT

A) CONDUCT

Managers, coaches, and players who, in the opinion of the Department Chairman or his representative, conduct themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner that would discredit the program, may be removed by the State board.

The State board's decision will be final.

B) EJECTIONS- see penalty chart on the website

C) HECKLING, TRASH TALK, RACIAL COMMENTS

No player, coach, manager, fan or anyone else associated with an American Legion baseball team shall heckle or make uncomplimentary remarks to opposing players, managers, coaches or umpires. The umpire will immediately eject any individual violating this regulation. Ejected parties must immediately leave the baseball park for the duration of the suspension. In the case of a player, a coach or designated parent must accompany the player.

TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

A) The use of cell phones, GoPro or any other recording device by players, coaches or fans will be limited to the portion of the backstop directly behind home plate, with the audio turned off. Video will not be allowed for "instant replay".

B) Cell phones are not allowed on the field or in the dugouts during games. If Gamechanger or other scorekeeping software is used, it is restricted to a designated person in the dugout.

C) Social Media has allowed everyone to become an expert on the game and how it is officiated. If you become involved in a discussion concerning a game, remember you are directly or indirectly representing Wyoming American Legion baseball. Five principles to keep in mind are

- 1- Be honest about who you are
- 2- Be clear that your opinions are your own
- 3- Show respect in all communications
- 4- Show good judgement in sharing/communicating information
- 5- Be aware that what you say is permanent and may have impact on your team, your sponsoring Post, the State Board or the National office.

DRUG AND ALCHOL POLICY

It is the responsibility of the local Post to establish a Drug and Alcohol policy and should mirror the policies established by the Wyoming High School Athletic Association. The Policy should contain the following.

- 1) No team member shall attend any team related activity if they have used drugs or alcohol unless prescribed by a physician for a valid medical condition.
- 2) Team members who are seen by a member of the coaching staff or another adult in a position of authority, using or possessing drugs or alcohol during a team event will be subject to discipline described below.
- 3) In instances where another person reports a violation of this policy, the violation will be investigated on a case by case basis. The person reporting the violation must

provide a written statement which will be treated as if the violation was witnessed by a member of the coaching staff.

Discipline:

The first offense will result in a two (2) week suspension and will require a written report from a substance abuse counselor prior to reinstatement to the team.

The second offence will result in the removal of the player from the team for the remaining portion of the playing year.

Misdemeanor/Felony Offense

Any player who commits a misdemeanor criminal offense, other than minor traffic offences, will be suspended pending resolution. The commission of a felony offense by a player will result in immediate expulsion from the team.