

2021 American Legion Senior Baseball Rules Annotated

[Full 2021 American Legion Rule Book](#) / [Full 2021 MLB Official Rules](#)

For more than 90 years, The American Legion's Americanism Commission has overseen the American Legion Baseball (ALB) program. This body is responsible for the playing rules, recruiting rules and all other aspects of the program. One of the unique characteristics of American Legion Baseball is that both senior and junior American Legion teams follow Official Baseball Rules with few modifications.

Changes to the Official Baseball Rules may be made by the Americanism Commission and are noted in Rule 1 of American Legion Baseball rules. These modifications are matters of safety, equipment and insurance; they are made with the welfare of the players in mind. The Americanism Commission reviews American Legion Baseball rules in odd-numbered years. All department policies and regulations must be reviewed and approved annually by the department baseball committee. For the good of the program, team managers, coaches and Legionnaires may submit changes through their respective department baseball committee for consideration. Submitted changes are presented to the 50 department chairmen at the fall baseball conference for consideration, and recommendations by the American Legion Baseball Committee are forwarded to the commission for consideration. Questions and concerns about the rules should be directed to your state baseball chairman. A full electronic version of this rule book is available at legion.org/baseball/resources.

Player Eligibility Requirements Rule 2

Player Age. Senior American Legion Baseball competition in 2021 is open only to players born on or after Jan. 1, 2002.

Amateur Rule. Only amateurs shall participate as players in American Legion Baseball. To be considered an amateur, players must not:

1. Receive money, favors or gratuities, direct or indirect, for playing baseball.
2. Accept money or favors for reimbursement for time lost at work while playing or for expenses incurred while playing.
3. Participate in an all-star baseball game that is not approved by the authorized department official.
4. Accept, directly or indirectly, money or any favors from anyone for their baseball services, past or present. This also applies to a player's parents, trustees, guardians, etc.

CLARIFICATION

It is important that teams select and register players who will complete their obligation to their American Legion team. Any player who signs a professional contract cannot be replaced on National Form #1.

In 2021 San Diego County American Legion Baseball Plays under Base School Recruiting Rules.

This requires that all American Legion Registered Teams have a base school associated.

1. If two or more teams are sponsored by the same American Legion post or outside sponsor, the department baseball committee will assign the base school for each team.
2. Selecting a base school is the starting point for recruiting additional players if the team chooses to recruit additional players. The intent of this rule is to ensure each team has a starting point to begin its recruiting and, more importantly, provide a basis on determining player eligibility. Once a team has established a base school, that base school is “locked in,” unless special written permission is requested and granted by the department (state) baseball chairman to change base schools.

Player Recruiting

1. Teams may select players who are enrolled on March 31, 2021, in any public, private, technical, vocational, regional, preparatory or home-schooled high school, or any combination.
2. Teams may not recruit a player(s) from another team’s base school. UNLESS the base school approves release of that player prior to player being listed on National Form #1.
3. Combined total enrollment of the schools combined cannot exceed 6,000 for 10th, 11th and 12th grades.
 - Enrollment is determined using the number of 10th, 11th and 12th grade students officially recorded on March 31, 2021, by the state board of education or other state agency that has jurisdiction over school enrollment. Every student registered shall be counted, including special education students, physically challenged students, bilingual students, and students older than 19.
4. When single high school enrollment exceeds 6,000 students, the team that has such a school as its base school shall not recruit from any other school.
5. Players who are unable to complete eligibility because enrollment expansion eliminated their schools from previously approved combinations may continue on the teams for which they last played, provided no new players are recruited from their school.
 - Written permission for a player to continue under these circumstances must be obtained from the department baseball chairman prior to listing the player on National Form #1.
 - This rule allows players on last year’s roster to finish their American Legion Baseball careers with their team when an increase in school enrollment occurs.

- The team must have the same combination of schools. (If a team changes school combination, players are no longer qualified under this rule.)
- As the example shows, between the 2020 and 2021 season three school enrollments grew in population, causing the team to exceed the 6,000-enrollment cap. Those players who appeared on the 2020 roster may continue to play. However, this team must drop a school from its approved combination in 2021 and inform the department baseball chairman which school it is dropping from its approved combination.

2020 TEAM		
SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT	PLAYERS
East HS (Base)	1,611	5
Northeast HS	1,511	6
City High HS	802	5
Pleasant Grove HS	901	2
Total	4,825	18

2021 TEAM		
SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT	PLAYERS
East HS (Base)	1,611	5
Northeast HS	1,525	6
City High HS	889	6
Pleasant Grove HS	1,000	1
Total	5,025	18

Designated Hitter (DH) Rule. Section (I)

Senior American Legion Baseball programs and all senior national tournaments shall use the American League designated hitter rule as published in [Official Baseball Rules](#). *For Emphasis – Bat 9.*

Pitching Rule (Section R)

No player may pitch more than a total of 105 pitches per day. A pitcher will be allowed to finish a batter if he reaches or exceeds the maximum limit during an at-bat, but must exit the position after that hitter. No player may enter the game as a pitcher without having fulfilled the required rest days as mandated in the chart below. No player may make more than two appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period. **PENALTY** – The pitcher is removed from the pitcher's position and head coach shall be ejected from the game and serve an additional game suspension.

1. Any player may be removed from the pitching position and remain in the game at another position. However, a pitcher will be automatically removed from the position when a coach makes a second trip to the mound in the same inning, and that player cannot return as a pitcher in that game. PENALTY – Forfeiture of the game if a protest is filed with the umpire-in-chief before the last out of the game.
2. If a player returns as a pitcher in the same game, he will be charged with another appearance.
3. If a team has multiple games scheduled on the same day, a pitcher who pitches more than 45 pitches in Game 1 may not pitch in a subsequent game that day and will be required to follow the rest protocol listed.
4. A day is defined as 8 a.m. to 8 a.m.

Daily max (pitches in game)		Required rest (pitches)				
		0 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days
ALB Senior Program	105	0-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+

U. 10-Run Rule. (Section U)

1. During the regular season, the department committee may grant permission to senior teams/leagues to use a 10-run rule for league games and invitational tournaments.
2. During the regular season, the department committee may allow senior teams to play seven-inning or nine-inning games with a 10- run mercy rule after five innings of play or 4½ innings if the home team has the last at-bat.