

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

MASSACHUSETTS STATE PROGRAM

DISTRICT 6 RULES



2026

C. Paul Dumas
Chairman

Steve Maze
Vice Chairman

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**2026 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL
DISTRICT 6
PLAYING RULES**

RULE 1 - TEAM & PLAYER CERTIFICATION

- A. Requests for admission to the Junior or Senior Program for the coming Season by an American Legion Post or Outside Sponsored team that did not field a team in the prior Season will be considered a New Team and will only be considered for entry into the Junior Program provided they submit a fully executed American Legion New Team Application Form to the District Chairman no later than the 31st day of January of the year for which the team seeks admission.
- B. New Team Application Forms shall be considered by the District Chairman at a duly called Team Managers' Meeting prior to being forwarded to the Department Athletic Committee with his recommendation.
- C. Each Team shall be responsible to provide the District Chairman with the following documents on or before the date specified for such submission, after which date a fine of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars shall be imposed and paid before such team may commence District play:
 - 1. Team Registration Forms are due by January 31, 2026.

2. Printed proposed National Roster due at Roster Meeting on date to be announced.
 3. Google Maps calculations for all non Base School players shown on Roster due at Roster Meeting. (See Department Rule 5.B.3.a)
 4. National Form 2 for each player are due at Roster Meeting.
 5. Original or certified copy of State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health, or other governmental agency issued birth certificate, to be shown to District Chairman at Roster Meeting, but retained by Manager.
 6. Consolidated Player Registration Form are due at Roster Meeting.
 8. Original and one copy of Form(s) 76 & 77 or M76 & M77, if applicable, are due at Roster Meeting.
 9. Original National Coaches Code of Ethics Form for Manager and all Coaches are due by at Roster Meeting.
- E. All Teams shall maintain in their possession and have available at all games the following documents: hereinafter referred to as the "Team Credentials", (1) Printed copy of National Roster; (2) Google Maps calculations for all non Base School players; (3) Team copy of Form 2 for each player on National Roster; (4) Original form of evidence of date of birth for each player on Form 1 as required by Department Rule 4.IV.D.3; (5) Fully executed copies of all Forms 76 & 77 or M76 & M77 for each player listed on Form 1 if necessary.

RULE 2 - DISTRICT DIVISIONS

- A. The Senior Division shall consist of 17 teams and the Junior Division shall consist of the 11 teams as shown on the Contact page of these Rules.
- B. The web master shall be responsible for maintaining the official Standings and Schedule for both Divisions on the District web site.
- C. The winning team in each Division will email or text the score to the web master as soon as possible after each game so that the District web site may be accurately maintained.

RULE 3 - REGULAR SEASON PLAY

- A. Regular season play in the Senior Division shall consist of each team playing each other team in the Division once for a total of 16 games plus 2 additional games against Division opponents to be determined randomly by the District webmaster for a total of 18 games.

1. The final date for regular season play in the Senior Division shall be Wednesday, July 15, 2026, after which date the Division standings shall become final.
 2. The National Courtesy Runner Rule (Rule 1.G) is not approved for use in the Senior nor Junior Divisions during the regular season nor the District Playoffs.
 3. The National Re-entry Rule (1.UT) is approved for use during the regular season only in the Senior and Junior Divisions; **however it is not approved for use in either Division during the District Playoffs.**
 - a. National Re-entry Rule (1.UT) is as follows: "Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and reentered once, including a player who was the designated hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter."
- B. Regular season play in the Junior Division shall consist of each team playing a non balanced schedule of 16 games.
1. The final date for regular season play in the Junior Program shall be Friday, July 17, 2026, after which date the Division standings shall become final.
- C. During the Regular season in both Divisions, a regulation game shall consist of 7 innings unless extended because of a tie score or shortened (1) because the home team needs none of its half of the 7th inning or only a fraction of it, or (2) because the umpire calls the game. A Regulation Game shall become official when the losing team has completed its time at bat in the fifth (5th) inning; or if tied, after both teams have completed their time at bat in the fifth (5th) inning. An official game which terminates in a tie, shall be declared a tie game and shall not be replayed.
1. During Senior and Junior District Playoff Games a game called by the umpire before it becomes a Regulation Game shall be a Suspended Game and completed as directed by the District Chairman, otherwise once becoming a Regulation Game, the result shall be final.
 2. A Regulation Game called by the umpire, ends at the moment the umpire terminates play, except if the game is called during an uncompleted inning, in which case the game ends at the end of the previously completed inning if the visiting team tied or took the lead in the incomplete inning and the home team did not tie or retake the lead in their part of the incomplete inning.
- D. National Rule 1.W (10 Run Rule) will be in effect in both Divisions during the Regular Season and during the Senior and Junior Division Playoffs. Games will become final at any point after the losing team has completed its time at bat in the fifth (5th) inning and thereafter, if losing by ten (10) or more runs. Clarification, if the visiting team takes a ten (10) run lead in its half of an inning, the home team shall be allowed to complete its time at bat in such inning.

- E. National Rule 1.T (Pitching Rule) shall be in effect in both Divisions during the Regular Season and during the District Playoffs. Pitching records shall carry forward from the Regular Season into the District Playoffs. Each team will be responsible to maintain pitch count and appearance records for all of its players throughout the season and shall have its records updated through the team's last game available at each game for inspection by the opposing team or the District Chairman. Teams violating any part of this Rule will be subject to sanction by the District Chairman.
1. Each team shall provide a written list of all of their players who are ineligible to pitch in that day's game because of exceeding the limits imposed by the Pitching Rule to the opposing team at the pre game ground rule meeting with the umpires.
 2. Teams shall confer after each ½ inning throughout each game to agree upon each pitcher's pitch count for such ½ inning.
- F. All teams shall complete their schedules as expeditiously as possible.

RULE 4 - STANDINGS

- A. The standings in both Divisions shall be based upon points (2 per win and 1 per tie).
1. Ties in the regular season standing in both Divisions shall be determined as follows:

If between 2 teams:
 - a. The winner of the regular season series between the tied teams shall determine the tie, if still tied; then
 - b. The team with the most number of wins shall determine the tie, if still tied; then
 - c. The team with the most number of runs scored in games between the tied teams shall determine the tie, if still tied; then
 - d. A coin toss shall be conducted by the District Chairman who shall assign heads & tails for the teams involved.
If between 3 or more teams:
 - a. The undefeated team shall advance¹, if there is no undefeated team; then
 - b. The team with the most number of wins shall determine the tie, if still tied; then

¹ If after removing the undefeated team, there remains tied teams, ties shall be determined depending upon whether there are 2 or more than 2 teams, using the appropriate category in Rule 4.A until all ties are determined.

- c. The team with the least total number of runs allowed in games between all of the tied teams shall determine the tie, if still tied; then
- d. A coin toss shall be conducted by the District Chairman who shall assign heads & tails for the teams involved in the tie and the order of the coin toss.

RULE 5 - STARTING TIMES, FORFEITS

- A. All District games shall commence promptly at their scheduled starting times. Any team not ready to begin play with nine (9) certified players fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled starting time shall forfeit the game and be responsible for all expenses actually incurred for such game including, but not limited to, umpire and field usage fees, which fees are to be paid forthwith.
 - 1. Teams that declare to the District Chairman, assignor and scheduled umpires by 4:00PM on or before the day a scheduled game will be forfeited, in this case, the team will be excused from paying the umpire fees but will be assessed a fine of One Hundred Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars, payable forthwith to the District Chairman who shall place such fines in a District Fund. Notice of forfeit delivered after 4:00PM but not less than 1 hour prior to the scheduled start time of the game will result in the team paying a ½ fee to the scheduled umpires plus the \$150 fine to the District Chairman. All other forfeits will result in the payment of a full umpire fee to the scheduled umpires plus the \$150 fine to the District Chairman.
 - a. The District Fund shall be maintained by the District Chairman and used to defray District expenses.
 - 2. Teams that fail to pay such fees and/or fines within a reasonable time shall be subject to immediate suspension by the District Chairman and shall be ineligible to compete in District 6 during any successive season until all such fees and/or fines have been paid in full.
 - 3. Teams that forfeit² two (2) games during any season shall immediately be suspended from the Program, shall forfeit all remaining games and be reported to the Department Baseball Committee Chairman. In addition to the sanctions imposed by Department Rule 10.E, no team may be readmitted to the Program until all fines and game expenses associated with their forfeited games have been paid in full, their New Team Application Form has been filed with the District Chairman by January 31 of the year immediately prior to the season for which the team seeks readmission, and the Application is favorably acted upon.
 - 4. The Umpire in Chief shall report all forfeited games to the District Chairman forthwith, together with the circumstances of the forfeit.

² Games which begin with nine (9) players on each team but which end in forfeit resulting from injury or ejection shall not be counted toward the two (2) games needed for removal from the program. See Department Rule 10.E.

RULE 6 - GAME EXPENSES

- A. The home team shall be responsible to provide sufficient authorized baseballs, (existing supplies of Diamond D1-AL-MA may be used but D1-AL are required) which are in satisfactory condition to the home plate umpire in order to complete each game.
- B. Two (2) umpires shall be assigned to each game who shall be paid by the home team prior to the start of each game. The umpire's fee established for all 7 inning regular season and District Playoff games in 2026 shall be \$90.00 per umpire in the Senior Division and \$80.00 in the Junior Division. The Umpire in Chief's Fee in 2026 shall be \$80.00 per team, the webmaster's fee shall be \$50.00 per team.
- C. Any Team violating the provisions of this Rule and/or any game not completed because of a violation of this Rule shall be reported to the District Chairman by the Umpire in Chief for appropriate action.

RULE 7 - POSTPONED GAMES

- A. Postponed games, and games which have not been played to official length shall be rescheduled by the home team within 48 hours to be played at the next available open date between the teams involved. The home team will notify the District Chairman, the webmaster and Umpire in Chief of the postponement and of the rescheduled date so that the official schedule may be updated and umpires may be assigned for the rescheduled game. In the event the teams involved can not agree on a new date for the rescheduled game, the District Chairman shall reschedule the game and notify the webmaster and Umpire in Chief of his actions. Teams refusing to play games on the rescheduled date will be subject to forfeit. The District Chairman shall have authority to reschedule games, set game times and locations for games as necessary in order to insure that all teams complete their scheduled games.

RULE 8 - CONFLICT WITH HIGH SCHOOL GAMES

- A. Teams that have less than fifteen (15) certified players available to play a regularly scheduled District game because their team's players are competing for their high school baseball team may postpone such regularly scheduled game by notifying the opposing Team Manager, the webmaster, the District Chairman and Umpire in Chief. Teams that exercise their option to postpone games as herein provided must begin their regularly scheduled games on the day following the termination of the high school's season which caused the team to have less than fifteen players available to play. All games postponed pursuant to this Rule must be rescheduled, (not necessarily played) within 48 hours of the team having fifteen (15) players available to play.

RULE 9 - INFIELD PRACTICE, LINEUPS & SUNDIAL

- A. Provided the visiting team is prepared to take the field on time, it shall be allowed to use the field for infield practice 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of each game.
- B. No inning is to commence after 8 PM at fields that do not have lights. No inning shall commence after 10:00 PM at night games at Needham High School. Official time shall be determined by the home plate umpire's watch unless otherwise agreed upon prior to each game.
- C. Each team shall be responsible to obtain a sufficient supply of American Legion Baseball Official Lineup Cards for the current season. The Lineup Cards shall be used to prepare each team's batting order. Prior to the start of each game, each team's manager shall deliver the original and one copy of the Lineup Card to the home plate umpire who shall make certain that the original and respective copies are identical and then tender a copy of each batting order to the opposing manager. The copy retained by the home plate umpire shall be the official batting order and only the players listed on that Lineup Card may appear in that game. The tender of the batting order by the umpire to the team manager shall establish the batting order for that game. Thereafter, no substitutions shall be made by either manager except as provided by the Official Baseball Rules.
 - 1. In addition to the Line Up Cards, the managers shall exchange a written list of all of their players who are ineligible to pitch in that game because of exceeding the limits of the National Pitch Count Rule.

RULE 10 - PROTESTS & EJECTIONS

- A. All protests involving interpretations of the Official Rules of Baseball must be made to the home plate umpire before the next pitch is made or a runner is retired and must be followed up by a typewritten outline of the facts which gave rise to the protest, citing the specific Rule(s) of Baseball in question. Such protests may only be made by the Team Manager and the written protest must be delivered to the District Chairman by facsimile transmission, certified mail, hand delivery or e-mail by midnight of the day of the protested game.
 - 1. Upon receipt of a written protest which complies with the provisions of this Rule, the District Chairman shall instruct the Umpire in Chief to obtain written game reports from the umpires who worked the game.
 - 2. The District Chairman shall promptly rule on the protest as soon as practicable.
 - 3. Games which are to be replayed or completed as a result of a protest shall be rescheduled as provided by Rule 7.

- B. All ejections of players, managers or coaches shall be forthwith reported to the District Chairman by the Umpire in Chief who may take whatever further disciplinary action he deems appropriate.

RULE 11 - DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

A. Senior Program Playoffs

1. The final date for regular season games shall be Wednesday, July 15, 2026, on which date the standings shall become final.
2. The teams finishing one (1) through four (4) after applying the tie breaker provisions of Rule 4, shall advance to the District Single Elimination Tournament.
3. The teams finishing five (5) through twelve (12) after applying the tie breaker provisions of Rule 4, shall play a single elimination game as follows: team 5 plays team 12, team 6 plays team 11, team 7 plays team 10 and team 8 plays team 9. The games will be played on Friday, July 17, 2026. In the event any game is rained out or not played to official length or ends in a tie, then the higher seeded team will advance to the second round.
4. The Teams finishing 1 through 4 and the four teams advancing from the first round of games will be arranged in descending order based upon the final regular season standings, (not including the results of the first round games) and play a Single Elimination Tournament as follows: Team 1 will play team 8, team 2 will play team 7, team 3 will play team 6, and team 4 will play team 5.
5. Second round games will begin on Saturday, July 18, 2026, weather permitting, and conclude no later than the conclusion of play on Thursday, July 23, 2026, no games may be played after July 23, 2026. The winning team will advance to the Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament which will be held at Fino Field, Milford, MA³.

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026

Game 1	Team #5	vs.	Team #12
Game 2	Team #6	vs.	Team #11
Game 3	Team #7	vs.	Team #10
Game 4	Team #8	vs.	Team #9

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

Game 5	Team #1	vs.	Team #8
Game 6	Team #2	vs.	Team #7
Game 7	Team #3	vs.	Team #6
Game 8	Team #4	vs.	Team #5

³ It is possible that D6 will be afforded a 2nd berth in the Department Tournament in which case the runner-up will also advance.

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

Game 9 Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 8
Game 10 Winner Game 6 vs. Winner Game 7

MONDAY, JULY 21, 2026

Game 11 Winner Game 9 vs. Winner Game 10

6. The times and location of all games will be announced by the District Chairman as soon as practicable and will be based upon field availability and weather conditions.
7. The home team for all District Playoff games shall be the higher seeded team with the best record in the Tournament. Approved Baseballs and umpire's fee (two umpires will be assigned to each game) shall be split equally by the teams.
8. All team personnel on the field and in the dugout area must be in complete uniform identical to the team players, jackets and pullovers may be worn over the uniform provided the American Legion patch is attached to the jacket or pullover.
9. Tournament Tie Breaker Rule⁴. If at the conclusion of play on Thursday, July 23, 2026, no games have been played in the Tournament, then the highest seeded team will be the winner. If Tournament games have been played and there are more than 2 teams remaining in the Tournament, then the winner will be determined as follows:
 - i. The team with the most number of wins in the Tournament will be the winner;
 - ii. If still tied, then the highest seeded team in the Tournament will be the winner.
10. Tournament games which have been stopped by the umpire before they become Regulation Games shall be Suspended Games and will be completed from the point of suspension at the direction of the District Chairman. The result of Regulation Games shall be final. The pitch count rule will be in effect for Games suspended on one day and completed the following day. Pitchers must observe the required days of rest.
11. All protests involving interpretations of the Official Baseball Rules in District Playoff Tournament games must be made to the umpires before the next pitch is made, a runner is retired, or immediately after the final play of the game where the protest involves the final play of the game. The Protest will be decided by the District Chairman, or if the Chairman is not in attendance, by his designee in attendance at the game after consultation with the District Chairman by cell phone, who's decision will be final.

⁴ Rule 11.A.2 shall be used to determine highest seeded team.

B. Junior Program Playoffs

1. The final date for regular season play shall be Friday, July 17, 2026.
2. The teams finishing one (1) through eight (8), after applying the tie breaker provisions of Rule 4, shall be arranged in descending order 1 through 8.
3. The eight teams will participate in a double elimination District Playoff Tournament such that teams will be eliminated from the Tournament upon their second (2nd) loss. The Tournament schedule is as follows and will commence on Monday, July 20, 2026, weather permitting, but must be completed by the conclusion of play on Thursday, July 30, 2026. The winner will advance to the 2026 Final Double Elimination Department Junior Championship Tournament which will be held at Franklin High School.

MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

Game 1	Team #1	vs.	Team #8
Game 2	Team #2	vs.	Team #7
Game 3	Team #3	vs.	Team #6
Game 4	Team #4	vs.	Team #5

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026

Game 5	Loser Game 1	vs.	Loser Game 4
Game 6	Loser Game 2	vs.	Loser Game 3
Game 7	Winner Game 1	vs.	Winner Game 4
Game 8	Winner Game 2	vs.	Winner Game 3

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2026

Game 9	Winner Game 6	vs.	Loser Game 7
Game 10	Winner Game 5	vs.	Loser Game 8
Game 11	Winner Game 7	vs.	Winner Game 8

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026

Game 12 ⁵	Winner Game 9	vs.	Loser Game 11
Game 13	Winner Game 10	vs.	Winner Game 11

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026

Game 14 ⁶	Winner Game 12	vs.	Winner Game 13
Game 15	If Necessary		

⁵ Pairings for Games 12 & 13 will not match previous opponents unless absolutely necessary. District Chairman has further instructions.

⁶ If three teams remain after Game 13, the winner of Game 11 advances to Game 15.

4. The times and location of all games will be announced by the District Chairman as soon as practicable prior to the commencement of the Tournament and will be based upon field availability and weather conditions.
5. The Tournament shall be under the sole jurisdiction of the District Chairman and his designees.
6. The home team for each Tournament game shall be the higher seeded team with the best record in the Tournament. Approved Baseballs and the umpire's fee (two umpires will be assigned to each game) shall be split equally by the two teams.
7. All team personnel on the field and in the dugout area must be in complete uniform identical to the team players, jackets and pullovers may be worn over the uniform provided the American Legion patch is attached to the jacket or pullover.
8. Tournament Tie Breaker Rule⁷. If at the conclusion of play on Thursday, July 30, 2026, no games have been played in the Tournament, then the highest seeded team in the Tournament shall be the winner. If Tournament games have been played, then the winner will be determined as follows:
 - i. The undefeated team shall be the winner;
 - ii. If there are more than one undefeated team, then the team with the most number of wins in the Tournament shall be the winner;
 - iii. If there is a tie among undefeated teams, then the highest seeded undefeated team in the Tournament shall be the winner;
 - iv. If there are no undefeated teams, then the team with the most number of wins in the Tournament shall be the winner;
 - v. If still tied, then the highest seeded team with the most number of wins in the Tournament shall be the winner.
9. Tournament games which have been stopped by the umpire before they become Regulation Games shall be Suspended Games and will be completed from the point of suspension at the direction of the District Chairman. The result of Regulation Games shall be final. The pitch count rule will be in effect for Games suspended on one day and completed the following day. Pitchers must observe the required days of rest.
10. All protests involving interpretations of the Official Baseball Rules in District Playoff Tournament games must be made to the umpires before the next pitch is made, a runner is retired, or immediately after the final play of the game where

⁷ Rule 11.B.2 shall be used to determine highest seeded team.

the protest involves the final play of the game. The Protest will be decided by the District Chairman, or if the Chairman is not in attendance, by his designee in attendance at the game after consultation with the District Chairman by cell phone, who's decision will be final.

RULE 12 - FIELD CONDITIONS

- A. All Teams shall take all necessary precautions to insure that their home fields are in satisfactory condition and that the bases are securely anchored and not movable.

RULE 13 - RULE CONFLICTS

- A. To the extent any District Rule conflicts with a National or Department Rule, the District or National Rule shall take precedence.

END OF RULES