



**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
RULEBOOK FOR PLAY IN 2026**

CALIFORNIA BASEBALL COMMISSIONER'S 2026

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Vice Chair: Dave Fuller

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Area 2: Frederick Elsner

Area 3: Robert Lasatovich
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Area 4: David Fuller
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State Championship Area Host Commissioner

BY DIRECTION OF:

David Brambila, Department of California Commander (2025-2026)

This pamphlet is meant to augment and/or clarify those rules published in the National Rulebook. Nothing in this pamphlet is meant to be less restrictive than those rules established therein. All questions concerning national or department rules should be referred to the governing Area Commissioner for clarification, and then if further clarification is needed, to either the Chairman or Vice-Chair for resolution.

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GENERAL

For the 2026 baseball season, teams are expected to compete locally within their Districts and Areas to determine an Area Champion to represent that Area in the state championship. Each of the six Areas receives one entry in the State Championship Tournament.

In 2026, the Baseball Commission has chosen to field eight teams in the championship, with the extra two teams being determined by the Commissioners to come from those Areas with the most registered teams. Should an Area fail to have a team in the championship tournament, Commissioners shall choose a supplemental team or teams to complete the tournament brackets, considering again Areas with the most registered teams, and home team sponsorship. The 2026 Championship Tournament will be 8-teams, double-elimination.

Players and coaches will be expected to attend a pre-tournament welcome and rules briefing the evening before Championship play begins. Photos may be taken and used for creation of a Tournament Brochure for sale on game days. Any players or coaches missing the rules briefing will be required to be briefed by their Area Commissioner prior to commencement of play. Coaches shall present copies of insurance, and Form 2 for verification at the rules briefing, including approved player identification, if not confirmed prior by the Area Commissioner.

Tournament entry fee is \$475 which shall be deducted from the stipend each team receives for travel and includes \$75 for logo baseballs. During the regular season, any approved baseballs may be used, at the discretion of Area Commissioners. Coaches and Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players at all times. Proper decorum in the community and care of facilities is mandatory.

Commissioners shall ensure that every team manager and/or head coach receives one copy of this Rule Book as early as possible in the season.



1. MOUND VISITS

Coaches are allowed one mound visit per inning, regardless of the number of innings played. A second mound visit, or crossing of the lines, requires that the pitcher be removed from the game. Players on the field conferring with the pitcher is not considered a mound visit.

2. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

Any player or coach ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct shall immediately leave the field of play, including the bleachers area. Such a player or coach may only be allowed to return upon conference and approval of the Commissioners and the Tournament Director.

3. TIE GAMES

Games that are tied at the end of 7 innings will go to extra innings using the current MLB rule. The player who made the last batted out in his team's at-bat will start the inning at second base. Each team continues such play until the game concludes with a winner. During the regular season, teams may elect to play on without a runner on second base for one or more innings.

4. OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER & PITCH COUNT

The Tournament Director shall provide an official scorekeeper in the announcer's booth for all games. The official scorekeeper shall also maintain a careful count of all pitches thrown, by pitcher, in every inning of play and provide the count at the end of each inning and when a pitcher reaches 95. The official scorekeeper shall notify umpires and the Tournament Director when allowed pitch counts are exceeded and if a pitcher is entering a game without the required rest days between outings. While Game Changer software may be used, it is not the official record of the game unless designated as such by the Tournament Director.

5. CHAMPIONSHIP DAY

An undefeated team may elect to be either home or visitor. If a second game is necessary, the opposing team may choose to be home or visitor. Dugouts will not change. If three teams have one loss on championship day, the team that was last undefeated receives a bye and the other two teams flip a coin to determine home or visitor of the first elimination game. The winner of this game plays the bye team. A coin toss will determine home and visitor. The bye team takes the open dugout.

6. PROTEST PROCEDURES

The Department of California follows the protest procedures established in Rule 5 of the National Rule Book. Protests of official rules of baseball must be filed with the umpire in chief before the next legal pitch. Play shall be suspended until the Protest Committee decides. No fee is required in cases of rules protests.

Each tournament shall have a Tournament Rules and Protest Committee with at least three members. The Committee shall consist of the Tournament Director and two individuals. These members shall be appointed by the Tournament Director, who will chair the Committee. Protests will be handled and settled by the Tournament Rules and Protest Committee at the time they are lodged. A \$200 fee is required to file a protest regarding player or team eligibility at Area and Department games and tournaments and must be filed before the last out of the game.

Protests regarding player or team eligibility must be lodged as soon as possible once the offense is discovered and include specific, written proof of the rule believed to have been violated. Waiting to file a protest for game results to develop is considered an ethics violation and may result in the coach being ejected if such a determination is made. If a player is deemed ineligible, all games in which that player participated shall be forfeited. Protests will be handled and settled by the Tournament Rules and Protest Committee at the time they are lodged.



7. TEN-RUN MERCY RULE

During regular season play, and during all District, Area, and Department tournaments, the 10-run mercy rule shall be in force, except where specifically briefed prior to play.

8. COACHES MEETING

A mandatory coaches meeting will be scheduled either in the morning before game time or in the evening after games are concluded to discuss events of the day prior and to coin toss for the home team. In lieu of an evening or early morning meeting, coaches are expected to meet on the field one hour prior to game time. Coaches who miss a meeting default on the coin flip to the other coach.

9. NEW TEAM FORMATION

Player recruitment must comply with national rules. Additionally, in the event of new teams being formed, players have the right to play for the new team IF it is closer to their parents domicile or their last high school. They may NOT play for the new team if the distance on Google maps from their parent's legal domicile or their last high school is further than any other Legion teams base school they could play for. Area boundaries are not recruitment boundaries, but it is preferable for players to play for teams within their sponsoring Post's Area.



REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

- Nov/Dec** • Coaches/managers info meetings
- 1 Jan** • Online registration opens (www.baseballlegion.org)
• Background checks and abuse awareness training initiated. Two coaches per team will facilitate faster processing of background checks and Abuse Awareness Training. Only PYS abuse-prevention training will be accepted.
- 31 March** • Establish players legal domicile and school using Calif, D.O.E. Dataquest to determine school enrollments. 7500 max combined enrollments of 10th-12th grades. Enter this number on player's form 2.
- 15 May** • **Deadline for team registration (\$200 late fee to June 1st).**
• Background checks and abuse awareness training requests submitted for all coach and players 18+
• Background checks and abuse awareness training requests must be approved. If not, call the chairman. Teams may add additional coaches.
- 1 June** • Last day for team registration
• Insurance must be purchased by this date or further play prohibited. Cost of Accidental Injury and Liability (for season or annual) will be provided when available for both Junior and Senior teams.
• Commissioners certify to chairman that enrollment is correct, and players & teams are legal.
- 25 June** • 9 PM-PDT is the deadline for rosters to be submitted to National
• Changes to the roster due to certified injury are only allowed up to the day prior to the regional championship tournament.
• Applications for baseball scholarship must be received by department
- 19 July** • Determine Area Championship
- 27 July** • Notify National of State Championship team and provide photo and housing list

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1. Coaches must wear uniform pants during State Championship tournament games.
 - a. Coaches jackets may be worn over, or in lieu of, a uniform top, and must have a ALB patch or sublimation on the breast or sleeve.

State Championship: 23 - 27 July at Fresno Pacific University.
Banquet on 22 Jul.

Regional Championship: Fairfield, CA. 5 - 9 August 2026

National Championship: Shelby, NC, 13 - 18 August 2026

NOTES





**2026 CALIFORNIA AMERICAN LEGION
BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

JULY 23RD - JULY 27TH

**2026 CALIFORNIA AMERICAN LEGION
BASEBALL REGIONALS**

FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 5TH - AUGUST 9TH

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