

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL
 DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
 DISTRICT 10, SENIOR LEGION BASEBALL RULES
 2019 SEASON, updated as of 7 March 2019

ARTICLE I ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

1. The District 10 (D10) Committee for American Legion Baseball shall be comprised of the following; D10 Athletic Chairman, General Managers, and Coaches of the American Legion Baseball Teams located in the Tenth District of the American Legion, Department of Massachusetts, or those teams that may be assigned to it by the Department Athletic Committee. Each team shall be entitled to one (1) vote on matters requiring such; as majority rules. The Chairman shall vote if he so chooses or in the event a tie needs to be broken or if he is also the sole representative present of an individual Zone 10 team.

1.1. TEAMS: Zone 10 will consist of the following teams: Table 1.

D10 - 14 Senior Teams	Post No.	Base School	Plan
Barnstable	206	Barnstable High School	B
Bridgewater	203	Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School	B
Brockton	35	Brockton High School	B
East Bridgewater Legion/Hawkeye	91	East Bridgewater High School	B
Hanover	149	Hanover High School	B
Hingham	120	Hingham High School	B
Kingston	387	Kingston, Halifax, Plympton & Carver	A
Orleans	308	Nauset High School	B
Pembroke	143	Pembroke High School	B
Plymouth	40	Plymouth North High School	B
Rockland	147	Rockland High School	B
Sandwich	188	Sandwich High School	B
Wareham	220	Wareham High School	B
Whitman	22	Whitman-Hansen Regional H.S.	B

1.2. All teams assigned to D10 shall comply with the rules and regulations established by the National Americanism Committee, the Department of MA Athletic Committee and the D10 Senior Legion Baseball Rules.

1.2.1. Each team will submit its annual Team Registration Form to the D10 Athletic Chairman by the January 2019 meeting. The Chairman shall report any team that fails to do so to Department Chairman and the team will be removed from the program, subject to its subsequent reinstated by the Department Athletic Committee. **CLARIFICATION**; see MA Department Rule 4-IV.B. & ARTICLE VI NEW TEAMS within these rules

1.3. **COMMITTEES:** A District Protest and Advisory Committee shall be comprised of the D10 Athletic Chairman, Thom Roache (Rockland Post 147), and Terry Irving (Bridgewater Post 203). The Protest Committee shall act only on matters pertaining to the playing of the game of baseball. Decisions of the Protest Committee shall be final. The Advisory Committee shall present “best interest” matters to the meetings.

1.3.1. Games which have been played under protest must be followed up with a written appeal citing the Official Rule of Baseball in question and signed by the team Managers or Head Coach. **CLARIFICATION**; for protests and appeals to the Department Athletic Chairman, see the MA Department Rule 11. PROTESTS

1.4. **ROSTERS:** All team rosters shall be certified according to instructions on National Form 1 by the D10 Athletic Chairman prior to the start of the team's first regularly scheduled game in accordance with MA Department Rule 4-IV.C.

1.5. The 2019 D10 Season shall commence on Sunday, June 9, 2019. The last day of regular season play shall be Monday, July 15, 2019. July 16th and July 17th will be designed as OFF days, unless playoff seedings are not fully determined. Once the final regular season schedule is set to be published, any changes must be approved by the D10 Chairman.

1.5.1. Any team that has less than twelve (12) players available due to the MIAA state tournament (including dual-rostered players), may reschedule games after consultation with the D10 Athletic Chairman and the opposing team. If a team has been eliminated from the tournament it shall play all scheduled games if the team roster contains the names of twelve (12) or more players who are not involved in tournament play.

ARTICLE II REGULAR SEASON PLAY

2. D10 shall employ the point system as outlined in MA Department Rule 8-IV.A., which is, two (2) points for a win, and one (1) point for a tie. A regulation game shall consist of seven (7) innings unless extended because of a tie score, or shortened because the home team needs none of its half of the 7th inning or only a fraction of it, or because the umpire calls the game. A regulation game shall become official when the losing team has completed its time at bat in the 5th inning; or if tied, after both teams have completed their time at bat in the 5th inning. An official game which terminates in a tie shall be declared a tie game and shall not be replayed. A 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.

2.1. There shall be no suspended games in D10 during the regular season. Games that have gone official lengths shall become documented games.

2.2. No inning shall commence after 11:00pm during the regular season.

2.3. TIE BREAKER: D10 Standings

2.3.1. If two teams are tied in points: The team that won the regular season series between the tied teams will advance. If still tied the team that allows the least amount of runs between the tied teams will advance. If still tied, a coin will be tossed by the D10 Athletic Chairman to determine the team that will advance.

2.3.2. If three teams are tied in points: The team that allowed the least runs in head to head play with the other tied teams will advance. If still tied, the team which scored the most

runs in head to head play with the other teams will advance. If still tied, a coin will be tossed by the D10 Athletic Chairman to determine the team that will advance.

2.4. **SCORES:** The winning team from each game shall be responsible for TEXTING the final score to the D10 Webmaster at 617-510-6533 and the D10 Athletic Chairman at 774-521-9769, so that a running tally of the team standings may be maintained. Teams are reminded that score accuracy is essential in determining tie breakers, and providing timely updates to the standings.

2.4.1. **Example TEXT Format:** 7/11 Sr. FINAL SCORE:
Sandwich Post 188 – 8
Barnstable 206 – 7

2.5. **MERCY RULE:** D10 will incorporate a ten (10)-Run Mercy Rule. If after five (5) innings of a scheduled 7-inning game, a team is winning by ten (10) or more runs, it will be considered a complete game. If after four (4) 1/2 innings the home team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs, the game will be considered a complete game. This rule also applies to the D10 Playoffs.

2.6. **POSTPONEMENTS:** All scheduled games shall be played. Failure to do so shall result in teams being assessed a fine of \$50.00 per instance, which shall go into the D10 Baseball/All-Star account. Games shall not be postponed because of lack of players or for inadequate means of transportation, such instances shall be considered forfeits. All team managers and coaches should consider all situations and potential problems well in advance. These problems should be handled within their organization. Subject to a \$25 fine, games that are postponed for whatever reason shall be rescheduled within seventy-two (72) hours of said postponement, but not necessarily played within this time-frame. See information provided in Section 1.5...

2.6.1. If nine (9) players are available at game time, the game shall begin. If less than nine (9) players are available, the start of the game shall be delayed fifteen (15) minutes. If, after this wait, there are still less than nine (9) players available to play, the game shall be declared a forfeit. The team that forfeits is monetarily responsible for umpire fees and any field related costs of the postponed/forfeited scheduled game. See Section 5.4...

ARTICLE III PLAYOFFS

3. The top eight (8) Senior Teams with the most points at the end of the regular season will play in the double-elimination District Playoff Tournament, with the winner representing D10 at the Final Eight Senior MA Department Championship Tournament, scheduled for July 27th-31st at Fino Field in Milford, MA.

3.1. D10 playoffs will begin on Thursday, July 18, 2019 and end no later than Thursday, July 25, 2019. In the event that there are two or more teams with one or zero losses and the District Tournament cannot be completed by July 25th, the highest remaining seed that is still participating in the tournament will advance. **CLARIFICATION:** Teams that have dropped two games are eliminated and regardless if a team has one or zero losses, the highest seed will advance.

3.2. D10 playoff games which are suspended due to weather or darkness will continue in the following manner: the game will resume from the point of suspension at the same field (if possible) and continue from the point of suspension. Cancelled playoff games due to weather, etc. will be

made up the following day. Games will proceed in the order of sequence outlined in the playoff format. Double headers will be played if necessary.

3.3. All D10 playoff games shall be scheduled as seven (7) inning games. Start times for playoff games shall be no later than 5:00pm, or 7:00pm for fields with lights. Once the final playoff schedule is published, any changes must be approved by the D10 Chairman.

3.3.1. Umpire Fees are **split** for all D10 playoff games – **home** team pays the plate umpire, **visiting** team pays the base umpire. **CLARIFICATION:** Each team pays one umpire \$78.00, regardless of game location.

3.3.2. The higher seed will be the home team and is responsible for supplying game balls.

3.3.3. If a champion has not yet been determined by July 25, 2019 whether due to inclement weather or suspended games, a determination as to the District Champion will be made by the commissioner based on the criteria provided in Section 3.1...

ARTICLE IV OVERALL PLAYING RULES:

4. Lineup cards for all games, including post-season games, given by each coach shall include the player's last name, uniform number, and position. All substitute players shall be listed to be eligible. ***PENALTY – substitute players are ineligible to play if they are not listed on said lineup card.***

4.1. During seasonal and playoff games, managers, coaches, and players must be in full uniform in order to coach/play, be in the coaching box, or appear on the playing field. Base coaches must also wear the approved helmet per the National Rule and MA Department Rule 1-A.8.c.

4.2. All hitters and base runners shall wear double flapped helmets. The catcher shall be required to wear, besides normal catcher's equipment, a safety helmet, a throat protector (if not built into the mask), and a protective cup. Umpires shall be instructed to halt any game until this rule is complied with. A catcher's mask shall be required of any player or coach while warming up a pitcher in or out of the bullpen. All batboys/batgirls shall wear protective headgear at all times while on the playing field. **CLARIFICATION;** See MA Department Rule 1-A.3.

4.3. **BASEBALLS:** Diamond D1-AL or D1-AL-MA are the only approved baseballs for use in the Department during the 2019 season. **CLARIFICATION;** See MA Department Rule 1-A.10.

4.4. **PITCHING:** D10 will follow the National Rule 1-R and MA Department Rule 1-A.5. This rule applies during regular season and playoff competition.

4.4.1 No player may enter the game as a pitcher without having fulfilled the required rest days as mandated in the chart below (see Table 2).

4.4.2. 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.

4.4.3. No player may make more than two appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period.

4.4.4. Any pitcher who pitches more than 30 pitches in a game may not pitch in any subsequent games that day.

Table 2.

Daily max (pitches in game) – 105
Required rest (# of pitches) – 0 day (0-30) / 1 day (31-45) / 2 days (46-60) / 3 days (61-80) / 4 days (81+)

PENALTY – *The pitcher is removed from the game and head coach shall be ejected from the game and serve an additional game suspension.*

4.5. **BATS:** Only bats approved for use in American Legion play may be used in games. Please refer to National Rule 1B. All non-wood bats must be BBCOR certified. If any bat is used in a game and fails to meet this requirement, the bat shall be removed from the game, the batter shall be declared out and the head coach or team manager shall be ejected from the game. **CLARIFICATION;** See MA Department Rule 1-A.9.

4.6. **DESIGNATED HITTER:** The Designated Hitter Rule as provided by Rule 6.10 of the Official Baseball Rules is the only Designated Hitter Rule approved for use in D10. Please note that neither the NCAA nor the MIAA Designated Hitter Rule may be used in any official game. **CLARIFICATION;** See MA Department Rule 9-B.

4.7. **COURTESY RUNNER:** Designated and/or courtesy runners and/or free substitution are not permitted in any American Legion official game. However, D10 adopts the re-entry rule that is detailed below. **CLARIFICATION:** See MA Department Rule MA Department Rule 9-A.

4.7.1. Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-enter 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.

4.7.2. The Courtesy Runner Rule, National Rule 1.G, has not been adopted and may not be used in any American Legion Game in the Department of Massachusetts.

4.8. **RE-ENTRY:** D10 may use the following re-entry rule during regular season play only: “Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-enter 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.” **CLARIFICATION:** See MA Department Rule 9-A.1.

4.9. All teams must carry a medical kit. **CLARIFICATION;** See MA Department Rule-1.A.6.

ARTICLE IV ADDITIONAL FEES/FINES/PENALTIES

5. Each team will submit their annual Department of MA Team Registration Form and shall pay a \$125.00 assignment/administrative fee. The D10 Chairman shall report any team that fails to submit their form to the Department Chairman.

5.1. Teams must register their team with The American Legion Baseball National Office Website (www.legion.org/baseball) by January 31, 2019 in order to be eligible to participate in the upcoming season. **CLARIFICATION;** See MA Department Rule 4-IV.A.

5.1.1. Teams that fail to register by January 31, 2019, will be allowed to register provided they pay a \$50.00, fine on or before February 15, 2019 after which date, they will be removed from the Program.

5.2. Teams shall pay a seasonal \$290.00 insurance (liability, accident, administration) or [\$390.00 for annual], \$50.00 national, and \$50.00 state fee by March 31, 2019.

5.3. **UMPIRES:** Fees are \$78.00 per umpire, \$156.00 per game for two (2) umpires, paid by the home team prior to the game start time. In the event of a single umpire, that umpire is due the normal fee of \$78.00. In the event of a weather cancellation: **[Ninety (90) Minute Notice]** - there are no umpire fees. **Less than [Ninety (90) Minutes Notice]** - umpires receive a half fee of \$39.00. In this instance, the home team shall have the responsibility of paying the game umpires their fees. In the event of a non-weather cancellation: Only after 5:00am of game day, and the umpire(s) are not reassigned, a \$50.00 per umpire fee will be assessed to the team that is responsible for the cancellation.

5.3.1. Arbiter web site: <https://www1.arbitersports.com/Shared/SignIn/Signin.aspx>

5.3.2. Umpire in Chief: Joe Peters, Cell: 781-354-3958, e-mail: joepeters@comcast.net

5.4. Any team which fails to appear for a scheduled game shall be held responsible for the full umpire's fee and the game shall be considered a forfeit. If the forfeiting team is the home team, it will pay the umpires. If the visiting team is the forfeiting team, the home team will pay the umpires and the visiting team will pay the umpire fees to the District. Upon receipt, the District will then reimburse the home team.

5.4.1. Teams that were suspended during the previous five (5) seasons for forfeiting two (2) games in a season may not be reinstated to the Senior Division until the team has complied with MA Department Rule-10.E., subject to \$500.00 non-refundable fine to the Department Athletic Committee, plus a \$100.00 D10 fee (\$50.00 per forfeiture, up to two (2)).

CLARIFICATION; See MA Department Rule-10.E.1.

5.5. Any team delinquent in its payment of fees, may be subject to suspension from the program until such fees are current.

5.6. **EJECTIONS:** Any player, coach, or manager who is ejected from a game due to misconduct in which the umpire in question feels further action is warranted shall have the incident reported in writing both to the D10 Athletic Chairman and to the Umpire-in-Chief. This written report shall be forwarded as soon as practicable to the D10 Athletic Chairman for further action as deemed necessary.

5.6.1. National Rule-7 and MA Department Rule-10 regarding sportsmanship and conduct shall be strictly enforced. Any player, coach, or manager who is suspended by the District Chairman from participating in the American Legion Baseball program shall first receive a verbal suspension pending receipt of the suspension in writing. This written suspension from the Chairman shall be sent to the parties in question via e-mail. Appeals may be made as outlined by Department Rule 10-A.2. The District Chairman shall forward a copy of the letter of suspension to the Department Athletic Chairman. A second suspension shall result

in the team's suspension for the rest of the season, following which said team may apply to the district as a new junior team the following year.

5.7. MA Department Rule 12-PENALTIES will be strictly enforced. Any person who intentionally misrepresents an American Legion Baseball Rule with the specific intent of causing a player(s) to violate any such Rule, shall be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, immediate suspension from further participation in the American Legion Baseball Program by either the Department Chairman, the appropriate District Chairman or the Department Athletic Committee.

5.8. All National and Department Rules not covered and/or emphasized by these District Rules shall be strictly enforced.

ARTICLE VI NEW TEAMS:

6. Applications for entry into the Senior Division for the upcoming season by teams which either did not have an active Senior Division Team in the prior season or were suspended from the Program during the prior season, will be considered a New Team and must file the following fully executed Forms with their District Athletic Chairman by January 31st of the season for which they seek entry: (i) American Legion Baseball New Team Registration Form; and (ii) Department of Massachusetts Base School Selection Form, if applicable. Teams submitting an application for entry to the Senior Division must demonstrate: (1) Satisfactory written evidence for permission to use the team's intended playing field during the season for which they seek entry by a duly authorized signatory of the entity responsible for use of the field, (the playing condition of the field must be satisfactory to the District Athletic Chairman); (2) Satisfactory evidence of the team's financial ability to fund the team; and (3) Satisfactory evidence of the team's ability to recruit sufficient qualified players to fill their roster without adversely affecting existing teams. **CLARIFICATION;** If the District Athletic Chairman, after consulting with the District's Team Managers, approve the New Team's entry into the Senior Division, the Chairman shall submit the forms and other information to the Department Athletic Committee Chairman by January 31st, of the season for which the team seeks entry for final approval by the Committee. New Team Applications and/or Base School changes will not be considered at a Department Athletic Committee meeting unless they appear on the agenda for such meeting. The Department Athletic Committee shall retain final jurisdiction on all such applications. **CLARIFICATION;** See MA Department Rule 4-I.A. NEW TEAM APPLICATIONS

~~APPROVE/DISAPPROVE~~

Keith Delgado, District 10 Athletic Chairman
Cell: 774-521-9769
E-mail: ktd711@verizon.net

~~APPROVE/DISAPPROVE~~

Terry Irving, Advisory/Protest Committee
Cell: 508-642-2322
E-mail: tmtkirving@comcast.net