

**AMERICAN LEGION YOUTH BASEBALL
REGULATIONS**

PREPARED FOR SUMMER AND FALL LEAGUES



**INCLUDES INFORMATION FOR THE
FOLLOWING DIVISIONS:**

*6U DIVISION (INTRODUCTORY)
8U DIVISION (INSTRUCTIONAL)
10U DIVISION (DEVELOPMENTAL)
12U DIVISION (MAJORS)*

Regulation I – The League

a. The league is the only unit of organization.

1. The 12U Division is to accommodate participants league age 12 and under.
2. The 10U Division is to accommodate participants league age 10 and under.
3. The 8U Division is to accommodate participants league age 8 and under and utilizes a pitching machine.
4. The 6U Division is to accommodate participants league age 6 and under and may utilize the batting tee, the pitching machine, or the pitched ball (by a coach).

NOTE: Players shall not be registered in more than one division.

b. The ALYB President shall appoint head coaches for the summer and fall leagues.

NOTE: Any manager or coach whose behavior or activities are deemed detrimental to the operation of the ALYB Program, will be removed immediately.

c. ALYB shall:

1. Adopt and play a schedule of games as provided for in Regulation VII.
2. Provide all players with a team hat and jersey.
3. Obtain Accident and General Liability insurance.
4. Ensure that no individual shall be permitted to participate in any manner whose background check reveals a conviction, guilty plea, no contest plea, or admission to any crime involving or against a minor or minors.

If the league becomes aware of information, by any means whatsoever, that an individual, including, but not limited to, volunteers, players, or hired workers, has been convicted of, pled guilty, pled no contest, or admitted to any crime involving or against a minor or minors, the league must contact the applicable government agency to confirm the accuracy of the information. Upon confirmation of a conviction for, guilty plea, no contest plea, or admission to a crime against or involving a minor or minors, the league shall not permit the individual to participate in any manner.

NOTE: Information gathered for background checks and results will be considered confidential, protected from public disclosure, and not used for any purpose beyond determining volunteer eligibility.

Regulation II – League Boundaries

- a.** Any child meeting the age requirements listed for a particular Age Division is eligible for active player membership. There are no league boundaries in determining if a player is eligible to register to play in the ALYB Program.

Regulation III – The Teams

a. ALYB shall establish the number of players on each team within each Division. No team may have more than 12 players nor be initially assigned less than 9.

6U Division: There will be no minimum or maximum established for the 6U Division.

b. Batboys and/or batgirls are not permitted.

c. The ALYB Board will determine the final number of players on each team, as well as any potential replacement players needed by a team that loses a player due to injury, illness or other reason that causes them to withdraw from the league. **NOTE:** No players will be added to an 8U-12U Division summer team roster after June 1st without Board approval while players may be added to a 6U Division roster at any time throughout the season.

IMPORTANT: No teams formed outside of the ALYB player assignment process will be accepted into the Summer League. Teams from surrounding communities may request to take part in the Fall League, but only with a roster that has been submitted and approved prior to the end of the player registration period.

d. If a team loses any player(s) on their roster during the current season through illness, injury, change of address, or other justifiable reasons (subject to Board approval), another player may be obtained to replace the one lost. The playing ability of the participant shall not be considered a justifiable reason for replacement.

NOTE: If a medical professional, umpire, the player's coach, the player's manager, or the player's parent has determined a player sustains a possible concussion, the player must be, at a minimum, removed from the game and/or practice for the remainder of that day. His/her return to full participation is subject to 1) the league's adherence to its respective state/provincial/municipal laws, 2) an evaluation and a written clearance from a physician or other accredited medical provider and 3) written acknowledgment of the parents.

Regulation IV – The Players

a. 6U Division: Any player who will not attain the age of 7 on or before April 30 of the current year shall be eligible to take part in the Summer League 6U Division. This means that a participant who will be 7 years old on May 1 or later is eligible to play that year; a participant who will be 8 years old on April 30 or earlier will not be eligible at any time during the calendar year in question.

8U Division: Any player who will not attain the age of 9 on or before April 30 of the current year shall be eligible to take part in the Summer League 8U Division. This means that a participant who will be 9 years old on May 1 or later is eligible to play that year; a participant who will be 9 years old on April 30 or earlier will not be eligible at any time during the calendar year in question. **EXCEPTION:** April 30 of the following year for the Fall League.

10U Division: Any player who will not attain the age of 11 on or before April 30 of the current year shall be eligible to take part in the Summer League 10U Division. This means that a participant who will be 11 years old on May 1 or later is eligible to play that year; a participant who will be 11 years old on April 30 or earlier will not be eligible at any time during the calendar year in question. **EXCEPTION:** April 30 of the following year the Fall League.

12U Division: Any player who will not attain the age of 13 on or before April 30 of the current year shall be eligible to take part in the Summer League 12U Division. This means that a participant who will be 13 years old on May 1 or later is eligible to play that year; a participant who will be 13 years old on April 30 or earlier will not be eligible at any time during the calendar year in question. **EXCEPTION:** April 30 of the following year for the Fall League.

NOTE 1: Parents and/or guardians of a player, in both the Summer and Fall Leagues, at the time of player registration may request that a player be allowed to play an extra season in a particular Division despite the player's age. The ALYB Board will decide on this matter utilizing past coach evaluations and/or a preseason evaluation.

NOTE 2: Players shall not be rostered on more than one team nor in more than one Division.

NOTE 3: If a player is repeatedly missing practices or games, the manager should make the Board aware of the situation immediately.

b. If requested, an applicant must be able to present acceptable proof of age to the league president. When and if such formal proof of age is not available, the league president shall gather as much documentary evidence as possible.

c. Players that request to register after team rosters have been constructed by the ALYB Board will either be allowed to register and be assigned to open roster spots by the ALYB Board (if player is paid in full and roster spots are available) or placed on a waiting list (if not paid in full or roster spots are not available). Head coaches with open roster spots after initial team rosters have been constructed may not actively seek out players to fill those roster spots.

d. Mandatory Play: Every rostered player present at the start of the game will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time in a six-inning game (five-inning game for the 10U Division). For the purposes of this rule, "six (6) defensive outs" is defined as: A player enters the field in one of the nine defensive positions when his/her team is on defense and occupies such position while six outs are made; "bat at least one (1) time" is defined as: A player enters the batter's box with no count and completes that time at bat by being retired, retired as a batter-runner or runner, scores, reaches base safely, or, after reaching base safely, the inning or game ends.

PENALTY: The player(s) involved shall start the next scheduled game, play any previous requirement not completed and the requirement for the current game before being removed.

The manager shall for the:

- A.** First Offense – receive a written warning.
- B.** Second Offense – a suspension for the next scheduled game.
- C.** Third Offense – a suspension for the remainder of the season.

NOTE 1: If the violation is determined to have been intentional, a more severe penalty may be assessed by the Board. However, forfeiture of a game may not be invoked.

NOTE 2: There is no exception to this rule unless the game is shortened for any reason, at which time the local league may elect not to impose a penalty on the manager/coach.

NOTE 3: In 10U Division games, if a half-inning ends before three outs have been made because of the imposition of the five-run limit and a player on the defense has played for the entire half-inning, that player will be considered to have participated for three consecutive outs for the purposes of this rule. However, if the player has not played on defense for the entire inning, that player will be credited only as having played for the number of outs that occurred while the player was used defensively.

A.R. – If a player/batter is called out by an umpire for using an illegal bat or for Rule 6.07 violation, this will qualify as an at bat for the purpose of this rule.

Regulation V – Selection of Players/Roster Construction

a. The assignment of players for all teams within the 12U, 10U, and 8U Divisions shall be conducted by the ALYB Board utilizing the following process:

1. Once all player applications have been accepted and any necessary preseason player evaluations are completed, the ALYB Board will assign players to teams to achieve the best balance possible within each Division. The ALYB Board will utilize the Player Evaluations provided by coaches at the end of the previous season and the Player Evaluation Ratings from the most recent preseason player evaluations during this process.

NOTE 1: Head Coaches do not have the right to pick and choose players for their rosters. Sons and daughters (including any siblings in the same Division) of a head coach are the only players that are automatically assigned to a team.

NOTE 2: Special requests will only be considered if the player assignment does not upset the balance of teams within the same Division.

b. The selection of players for the teams within the 6U Division shall be conducted by the ALYB Board utilizing an informal process whereas most players will be assigned to the same team from the previous season and most, if not all, special requests are honored.

NOTE 1: Managers and/or coaches can request specific players for their roster in the 6U Division.

NOTE 2: Parents/guardians may note a special request on their player application with a near guarantee in this Division only that the request will be honored.

Regulation VI – Pitchers (12U/10U Divisions)

- a. Any player on a regular season team may pitch.
- b. A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher.
- c. Players are allowed to pitch six (6) consecutive outs per game.

Violation of any section of this regulation can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protests shall be made in accordance with Playing Rule 4.19. A team that is deemed to have intentionally used a pitcher who has exceeded the allowable outs for the game shall forfeit the game. If it is found to be unintentional the pitcher shall be removed from the mound at the time it is discovered that the pitcher is ineligible, and the game shall continue from that point.

NOTE 1: The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation. ALYB managers and coaches are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately.

NOTE 2: Outs charged toward a pitcher in games declared “Suspended Games” shall be charged against the pitcher’s eligibility and the pitcher may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that game when it is resumed.

Regulation VII – Schedules

a. The schedule of games for the season within each division shall be prepared by the ALYB Board.

b. Teams will typically be scheduled to play 1-2 games per week, with regularly scheduled games most commonly occurring Monday-Thursday evenings. Game times are 5:45 pm and 7:30 pm. **EXCEPTION:** 6U Division game times are 5:45 and 6:45 pm.

c. 12U regular season games will consist of six (6) innings and have a 1 hour and 30-minute time limit. 10U regular season games will consist of five (5) innings and have a 1 hour and 30-minute time limit. 8U regular season games will consist of six (6) innings and have a 1 hour and 30-minute time limit. 6U games will consist of four (4) innings or 1 hour, whichever comes first.

Any inning which has been started prior to the time limit expiring will be completed. No new inning will begin once the time limit has expired.

In the 6U Division, no league standings shall be kept, and no championship game will be played.

d. The safety of all players is of utmost importance when considering whether to cancel or postpone games. The ALYB Board prefers to not postpone games if possible but poor field conditions or the threat of lightning may result in games being rescheduled for another date and time.

e. Make up games or the resumption of suspended games will be scheduled by the ALYB Board as needed and may occur on Friday evenings or weekends (**NOTE:** This may result in a team playing more than two games in a week). A suspended game may be completed prior to a scheduled game involving the same team or teams.

IMPORTANT: Teams may not cancel or reschedule their own games due to a lack of player participation or availability. Please see the regulation regarding the borrowing of players.

Regulation VIII – Special Games

- a.** Special Games are defined as games that:
- 1.** are played outside of the regular season schedule, and
 - 2.** include any preseason practice games, and
 - 3.** include Postseason Tournament Games (8U-12U only).

Any team may arrange for a practice game any time prior to or during the regular season, provided it does not conflict with another team's practice time or with any make-up or regularly scheduled games.

Teams in the 8U-12U Divisions will take part in a Postseason Tournament after the conclusion of the regular season. The tournament will be a seeded single-elimination tournament based on the final regular season standings. Seeds will be determined by the overall team winning percentage. If there is a tie, then the head-to-head record will be used. A coin flip will determine the higher seed if none of the previous tie-breaking methods are effective.

Regulation IX – Night Games

a. Games may be played after sundown under artificial lights. No inning shall start after 10:00 p.m. It will be held that an inning starts the moment that the third out is made (after the 10th batter completes his/her at bat in 8U, when the last possible run scores in 10U), completing the preceding inning.

Regulation X – Borrowing of Players

a. During the regular season and postseason, 12U and 10U summer league teams may pull players up from the next lower age division only to have nine (9) players on the roster and with the approval of the ALYB Board. The player shall not play any infield position, must be placed at the end of the batting order, and may only be used in a total of three (3) games in a season. At no time should a player miss any portion of their regular team's scheduled game to play for another team.

IMPORTANT: Fall League teams may pull from within the same age division when borrowing players.

b. During the regular season and postseason, an 8U team may borrow a player from another 8U team only to have nine (9) players on the roster and with the approval of the ALYB Board. The player shall not play any infield position, must be placed at the end of the batting order, and may only be used as a substitute for any another 8U team a total of three (3) times in a season.

Regulation XI – Awards

- a.** Immediately following the completion of their final summer league regular season/postseason tournament game, all members of 6U-12U Division teams will be provided with awards for participation in the American Legion Youth Baseball Summer Program.

- b.** At the conclusion of the 8U-12U summer and fall league postseason tournament games, team awards will be provided for postseason tournament champions and postseason tournament runners-up.

Regulation XII – Field Decorum

- a.** The actions, on or off the field, of players, managers, coaches, umpires, and league officials must be above reproach. Any player, manager, coach, umpire, or league representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, at the game site or any other ALYB activity including through online or social media, is subject to disciplinary action by the ALYB Board.

- b.** Uniformed players, news photographers, managers, coaches, and umpires only shall be permitted within the confines of the playing field just prior to and during games. Batboys and/or batgirls are not permitted at any level of play. Except for the batter, baserunners, and base coaches at first and third bases, all players shall be on their benches in their dugouts or in the bullpen when the team is at bat. When the team is on defense, all reserve players shall be on their benches or in the bullpen.

- c.** Two adult base coaches are permitted.

- d.** A manager or coach shall not leave the bench or dugout except to confer with a player or an umpire and only after receiving permission from an umpire. **EXCEPTION:** In the 6U Division, managers and coaches may be on the field for instructional purposes but shall not assist runners or touch a live ball. At least one adult manager or coach must be in the dugout at all times.

- e.** The possession and/or use of firearms, tobacco products, cigarettes (including e-cigarettes and vapors), controlled substances, and alcoholic