



# **AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL MASSACHUSETTS**

## **District 8 By-Laws 2024**

**April 24, 2024**

# AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL DISTRICT 8, MASSACHUSETTS BY-LAWS

## District 8 Officials

- A. The District 8 Committee shall consist of District 8 Chairman, J. Kent Wheeler, Vice Chairman, Mike Quinn, Vice Chairperson, Mike Levine, and General Managers of the teams in District 8.
- B. Each team shall be entitled to a single (1) vote. The Chairman or Vice-Chairman not representing a team will also have a vote on all matters. All teams are to send a suitable representative to each meeting.
- C. Special Committees:
  - Protest Committee: Umpire assigners Fred Simm, Dick Newton, and Vice Chairman Mike Quinn
  - Executive Advisory Committee: District Chairman and Vice Chairmen.

## Base School

- A. Teams retain their base school from year to year per Department Rule #4.II.B.a
- B. Requests for base school changes shall be submitted to the District Chairman before the Department deadline. Requests will be reviewed and voted on by the District Committee before submission to the Department Chairman for final approval.

## Registration & Rosters

- A. Teams must submit registration forms each year before the department deadline of January 15th
- B. Each team must submit to the District Chairperson, a roster of 18 players, managers, and any other authorized person connected with the team by May 31.
- C. Only those people whose names appear on the staff roster may be on the player's bench during games.
- D. The following must be included: National Form 1 (registration), National Form 2 (player agreement) and if applicable, Form 76 (player transfer), and Form 77 (team declaration).
- E. For any non-base school player, a printout of calculations shown by Google Maps verifies the player resides closer to the team's base school than to any other base school. The printout must also show the distance to the next closest base school.
- F. A birth certificate, passport, or driver's license is required from each player to approve a team roster.
- G. Department rules require that all teams must have all documents available at all games.
- H. District 8 league dues will be \$250 per team for the season.

## Scheduling

- A. District 8 regular season starts after the MIAA season. The junior league starts after MIAA regular season. Senior league start date will vary based on the MIAA Tournament. Teams aim to play by 2nd week of June.
- B. Managers should begin scheduling games at the February meeting and have all games scheduled by April 1st
- C. All game time and field changes must be reported by email to the umpire-in-chief and the District Chairman.
- D. All teams must complete 80% of their District 8 schedule. The only exception will be made by the District Chair.
- E. During the high school playoffs, a team that cannot field a team of at least twelve (12) players may reschedule games.
- F. Once the season starts, games cannot be rescheduled except for weather or high school playoffs.
- G. Twilight games will start no later than 6:00 pm and games at fields with lights no later than 8:00 pm, unless another time is mutually agreed upon by both teams. All teams with nine players must start the game at the agreed-upon time.

## Game Rules & Requirements

- A. District 8 shall consist of a 19u Senior League and a 17u Junior League.
- B. District 8 will play by MA Department Rules and National American Legion Rules.
- C. For those American Legion Baseball programs that have affiliated senior and junior teams, junior-eligible players may participate on both teams. However, senior-eligible players may not participate on a junior team. Those eligible junior players may appear in an **affiliated** senior team game provided the total number of players in such senior game does not exceed 18 players.
- D. The District 8 season will consist of league play, potential out-of-district play, District 8 playoffs, and potentially Senior and Junior Legion State Tournament play. Out-of-district play will be coordinated by team managers.
- E. District 8 league play and a playoff format to determine the Junior and Senior Legion representatives to the State Tournament will be completed before the start of the regular season.

- F. Home teams must furnish Diamond D1-AL or D1-AL-MA baseballs for each game.
- G. A Regular Season regulation game shall consist of 7 innings unless extended because of a tie score.
- H. Extra innings will NOT start with a runner on second base like the MLB rule.
- I. A Designated Hitter (DH for pitcher only) may be used in all ALB games. ALB does NOT allow a player to be both the pitcher and the DH like in MLB (The Ohtani Rule).
- J. All District 8 games shall use the ten (10) run rule after five (5) innings unless the home team is ahead by 10 runs after 4 1/2 innings, at which time the game will end and the score will be final.
- K. Home teams take pregame I/O first and are to be off the field to allow the visiting team 15 minutes of I/O before the start of the game.
- L. The following Re-Entry Rule may be used during the Regular Season: Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-entered once, including a player who was the Designated Hitter or Extra Hitter, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. A substitute who is withdrawn may not re-enter.
- M. Base coaches are required to wear helmets per Major League Baseball Rules.
- N. 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.

### **National Pitch Count Rule**

- A. District 8 will play by the MA Department Rules and the American Legion Baseball rule book.
- B. This includes the following pitch count rules: (See MA Department Rules for complete rule)
  - 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 make more than two appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period.
  - Required periods of rest are as follows:  
1-30 pitches: 0 days / 31-45 pitches: 1 day / 46-60 pitches: 2 days / 61-80 pitches: 3 days / 81-105 pitches: 4 days

### **Reporting Game Results**

- A. Coaches of each team will receive an email requesting game scores and pitch counts after each game. Coaches are expected to report scores on the same day games are played.
- B. They will then be entered on the District 8 website.
- C. Postponed or suspended games are to be reported to the Chairman and made up on the next available date.

### **Postponed & Suspended Games**

- A. In case a game must be postponed due to weather, the home team will notify the visiting team and assigned umpires at least an hour and a half before game time. The game umpires are entitled to a half fee for any game that is not canceled an hour or more before game time.
- B. Postponed games should be made up on the next available date both teams can play.
- C. Mike Quinn, Vice Chairman will determine a date if no agreement can be reached
- D. 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. Games that have been called by the umpire before becoming official as well as official games that are tied when called, shall be Suspended Games and will be completed from the point of suspension on the next available date.
- E. All playoff games must be completed in full as a 7-inning or extra-inning game (except for the 10-run rule).

### **Umpires**

- A. Each game will be assigned two umpires. Teams will split the cost of umpires for each game. The umpire fee for Junior and Senior games will be determined before the start of the season.
- B. Umpire fees are to be paid at the ground rules meeting on the field 10 minutes before the game.
- C. If a single umpire works a game, he shall be paid a revised fee that will be determined before the start of the season.
- D. Once the game starts umpires are paid the full fee, even if the game is not finished.
- E. A makeup game is considered a new game with new umpires and new fees. This includes continuation games as well.

### **Forfeited Games**

- A. If a team fails to show up for a scheduled game, it will be considered a forfeit and the team will be held responsible for the full umpire's fee. The team at the field will pay the umpires, the forfeiting team will pay the league, which will then reimburse the team that paid.
- B. Any team forfeiting two games in a season shall be suspended from the league. In this case, all remaining games on the suspended team's schedule shall be declared a forfeit and the opposing team will be credited with a win and the suspended team's record will show losses.
- C. See Department Rule 10E for a penalty for forfeiting 2 games in a season.

### **Appeals & Protests**

- A. All appeals/protests shall be heard by Mike Quinn, District Vice Chairman, and the Protest Committee. The District Protest Committee shall consist of: Mike Quinn, the District Vice Chairman, and both umpires in chief. Protested games will be reported to Mike Quinn, Vice Chairman (by phone) within 24 hours. This must be followed up by an email of explanation, no later than 72 hours after the game.
- B. Managers who feel aggrieved by a decision may appeal to the Department Chairman per Department Rule 11.

### **Suspensions**

- A. Any player, coach, or member of the District who violates a District, Department, or National rule shall be subject to sanction which may include suspension or probation.
- B. Mike Quinn, Vice Chairman and the Protest Committee are responsible for levy of suspension or probation.

### **Ejections**

- A. Any player, coach, or team official ejected from a game will serve a one (1) game suspension.
- B. Any form of verbal abuse or tirade with vulgarity or dishonorable conduct will be faced with a two (2) game suspension, per Mike Quinn, Vice Chairman.
- C. Subsequent ejections in the same season, including playoffs, will result in a one-year suspension.
- D. The individual has the right to appeal to the Chairman of the Department Baseball Committee.

## **AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL DISTRICT 8, MASSACHUSETTS 2024 Regular Season and Playoff Format**

### **Regular Season Play**

- A. The regular season schedule will determine the seeding for the District 8 Playoff which will determine the team or teams that will represent District 8 in the MA Junior and Senior State Department Tournament.
- B. Each team will receive 2 points for a win and 1 point for a tie. Extra innings procedures will be followed to break most ties.
- C. The 6 Senior teams will play every league opponent three times. The season will consist of 15 league games. Non-league play is strongly suggested to provide plenty of playing time for all your players. The final date to play a regular season game is July 17<sup>th</sup> followed by D8 playoffs, Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup>.
- D. The 10 Junior teams will play every league opponent two times. The season will consist of 18 league games. Non-league play is strongly suggested to provide plenty of playing time for all your players. The final date to play a regular season game is July 24<sup>th</sup> followed by D8 playoffs, Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup>.
- E. The District 8 Senior Champion will play in the Senior State Department Championship beginning Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>.
- F. The District 8 Junior Champion and Runner-Up will play in the Junior State Department Championship Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Standings and Tiebreaker Rule**

- A. The team with the most total points.
- B. Tie Breaker
  - Head to head among the teams that are tied.
  - Best record against highest-seeded teams, beginning with the #1 seed throughout the entire standings until one team is eliminated.
  - If a tie still exists, revert to a. and b. until teams are determined.

### **District 8 Senior Playoff Format**

Starting times for District Playoff games will be no later than 5:00 pm at fields without lights and no later than 7:00 pm at fields with lights. All games are scheduled for 7 innings. All six teams may participate in the playoffs.

- A. Saturday, July 20:
  - Seed 6 @ seed 3
  - Seed 5 @ seed 4.
  - Seed 1 and 2 draw a bye.
- B. Sunday, July 22:
  - highest seed @ seed 1
  - lowest seed @ seed 2
- C. Monday, July 23:
  - Championship Game.

July 24 is the final date to play. Playoff schedules for the Department Tournaments can be found in the Department Rules.

### **District 8 Junior Playoff Format**

Starting times for District Playoff games will be no later than 5:00 pm at fields without lights and no later than 7:00 pm at fields with lights. All games are scheduled for 7 innings. All ten Junior teams may participate in the playoffs. If more than six teams choose to participate, the single-elimination format will be adjusted accordingly.

- D. Saturday, July 27:
  - Seed 6 @ seed 3
  - Seed 5 @ seed 4.
  - Seed 1 and 2 draw a bye.
- E. Sunday, July 28:
  - highest seed @ seed 1
  - lowest seed @ seed 2
- F. Monday, July 29:
  - Championship Game

July 31st is the final date to play. Playoff schedules for the Department Tournaments can be found in the Department Rules.