

**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL**

**MASSACHUSETTS STATE PROGRAM**

**DISTRICT 6 RULES**



**2009**

**Lawrence A. Connors  
Chairman**

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## 2009 DISTRICT 6 OFFICIALS

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**Cohasset -118:** Scott Arnold, 5 Oak Road, Scituate, MA 02066; Tel. (781) 545-1896

**Dedham -18:** Dave Brown, 79 Walnut Ave., Norwood, MA 02062; Tel. (C) (781) 727-1251

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### UMPIRES IN CHIEF

**East:** Don Fredericks, 37 Smyth Street, Stoughton, MA 02072; (781) 344-8475; (W) (781) 848-4000 x2269

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# **2009 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL DISTRICT 6 PLAYING RULES**

## **RULE 1 - TEAM & PLAYER CERTIFICATION**

- A. Requests for new American Legion Post or Outside Sponsored teams for the 2009 season were due by October 31, 2008. Requests for new American Legion Post or Outside Sponsored teams for the 2010 season must be made in writing by submitting a fully executed American Legion New Team Entry Form and Base School Selection Form to the District Chairman no later than October 31, 2009.
  - 1. The District Chairman shall forward copies of such New Team Entry Form and Base School Selection Form to all Team Managers in the District and request their input prior to forwarding same to the Department Athletic Committee with his recommendation.
  - 2. Requests for admission to District 6 received after October 31, 2009, for admission for the 2010 season shall be denied.
  
- B. Teams intending to withdraw from District 6 for the 2009 season must inform the District Chairman in writing no later than January 31, 2009.
  - 1. Teams which withdraw from District 6 after January 31, 2009 or fail to complete their 2009 schedule, shall be ineligible to participate in District 6 for the 2009 and 2010 seasons subject to their right of appeal pursuant to District Rule 5(A)(3)(a).
  
- 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, 2009.
  - 2. Original and one copy of fully completed and executed National Form 1, typewritten, including the names of all assistant coaches, are due by May 28, 2009. Additional pages listing additional assistant coaches shall be on Post or outside sponsor's stationery.
    - a. Each Team shall deliver copies of their Form 1 to each other Divisional team at the Divisional Roster Meeting;
    - b. Players listed on a team's Form 1 which has been submitted to the District Chairman may be replaced with players listed on that team's Consolidated Player Registration Form on or before June 12, 2009 with notice to all other District Teams. (see Department Rule 4.II.C1.d)

3. National Form 2 for each player are due by May 28, 2009.
  4. 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 by May 28, 2009, but retained by Manager.
  5. Certificates of Insurance are due by May 1, 2009.
  6. Consolidated Player Registration Form are due by May 28, 2009.
  7. Original and one copy of Form(s) 76 & 77, if applicable are due by May 28, 2009.
  8. Original National Coaches Code of Ethics Form for Manager and all Coaches are due by May 28, 2009.
- 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) Copy of fully executed Form 1; (2) Team copy of Form 2 for each player on Form 1; (3) Original form of evidence of date of birth for each player on Form 1 as required by Department Rule 4.B.3; (4) Team copy of Certificates of Insurance; and (5) Fully executed copies of all Forms 76 & 77 for each player listed on Form 1 if necessary.

## **RULE 2 - DISTRICT DIVISIONS & SECRETARIES**

- A. The District shall be divided into two (2) Divisions for regular season play.
1. The East Division shall be comprised of the following teams: Braintree, Cohasset, Holbrook, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Milton, Quincy #95, Quincy #294 & Weymouth.
  2. The West Division shall be comprised of the following teams: Canton, Dedham, Foxboro, Medfield, Needham, Norfolk, Norwood, Stoughton, Walpole & Westwood.
- B. The Divisional Secretaries shall be responsible for maintaining the official Division Standings and Schedule, and shall report all scheduling disputes to the District Chairman for resolution.

## **RULE 3 - REGULAR SEASON PLAY**

- A. Regular season play shall consist of each team within each Division playing each other team within its own Division. Each Division shall be responsible to promulgate its own schedule, including number of games, which shall be subject to final approval by the District Chairman.

1. The final date for regular season play shall be \_\_\_\_\_, July \_\_\_\_\_, 2009 after which date the divisional standings shall become final.
- B. 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. 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 last previous 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.
- C. All teams shall complete their schedules as expeditiously as possible.

#### **RULE 4 - STANDINGS**

- A. Divisional standings shall be based upon each team's total points (2 points per win, 1 point per tie), with the top five (5) finishing teams in each Division advancing to the District Playoffs.
1. Ties in the Final Division Standings shall be determined as follows:
    - a. The winner of the regular season series between the teams involved in the tie shall determine the tie, if still tied; then
    - b. The team with the most total runs scored between the teams involved in the tie during the regular season shall determine the tie, if still tied; then
    - c. A coin toss shall be conducted by the District Chairman who shall assign heads & tails for the teams involved.
  2. The winning Team's manager of each game shall be responsible to report the score of the game to their Divisional Secretary as soon as practicable, who shall maintain the official Division Standings.

#### **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 forfeiting games shall also pay a fine of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars forthwith to the District Chairman who shall place such fines in a District Fund.
  - a. The District Fund shall be maintained by the District Chairman and used by the Divisional Secretaries to defray their 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 forfeit two (2) games during any one season shall be subject to immediate suspension by the District Chairman for the remainder of the season and shall be ineligible to compete in District 6 during the following season.
  - a. Teams declared ineligible for the following season as a result of their forfeiting two (2) games or withdrawing from the District after the 31st day of January shall have the right to an appeal before the Divisional Protest Committee; provided however, that the appeal is type written, signed by the Team Manager and served upon the District Chairman, with a copy to the Divisional Secretary, on or before the 1st day of December of the year in which the forfeits or withdrawal occurred. Appeals which do not comply with the terms of this Rule shall not be considered nor allowed.
    - i) Upon receipt of a written appeal, the District Chairman shall promptly convene the Divisional Protest Committee.
    - ii) The Divisional Protest Committee shall conduct a hearing and make appropriate recommendations to the District Chairman who shall have the final authority to either revoke the ineligibility by imposing such other sanctions as he may deem appropriate to insure the faithful completion of the schedule without forfeit, or uphold the ineligibility.
    - iii) No team shall be allowed an Appeal hereunder in successive seasons.
4. The appropriate Divisional Secretary shall report all forfeited games to the District Chairman forthwith, together with the circumstances of the forfeit.

## **RULE 6 - GAME EXPENSES**

- A. The home team shall be responsible to provide sufficient authorized baseballs 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 fee established for all 7 inning games in 2009 including the District Playoffs shall be \$\_\_\_\_.00 each. The umpire fee

for all 9 inning games in 2009 including the Sectional Playoffs shall be \$\_\_\_\_.00 each.

- 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 Divisional Secretary by the appropriate Umpire in Chief who shall then notify the District Chairman for appropriate action.

### **RULE 7 - POSTPONED GAMES**

- A. Postponed games or 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 both their Divisional Secretary and the Umpire in Chief 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 Divisional Secretary will reschedule the game and notify the District Chairman and Umpire in Chief of his actions. Teams refusing to play games on such rescheduled date will be subject to forfeit.

### **RULE 8 - CONFLICT WITH HIGH SCHOOL GAMES**

- A. Teams that have less than 12 certified players available to play a regularly scheduled District game because their players are competing for their high school's baseball team, may postpone such regularly scheduled District game by notifying the opposing Team Manager, Divisional Secretary and Umpire in Chief. Teams that exercise their option to postpone games as herein provided, must begin their regularly scheduled games on the second day following the termination of such high school's season and as soon as the Team has 12 or more certified players available to play. All postponed games must be rescheduled within 48 hours of the Team's resumption of District 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 within the West Division. No inning is to commence after 10:30 PM at night games at Billings Field. Official time shall be determined by the home plate umpire's watch.
- 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. The tender of the batting order by the umpire to the team manager shall establish the batting order of the respective teams. Thereafter, no substitutions shall be made by either manager except as provided by the Official Baseball Rules.

## **RULE 10 - PROTESTS & EJECTIONS**

- A. The District Chairman shall establish Divisional Protest Committees to hear all protests of official games that have been played under protest within each Division, reserving to himself the right to overrule such committee.
1. The District Chairman shall chair each Committee which shall be comprised of the appropriate Divisional Secretary, Umpire in Chief and two (2) Team Managers.
    - a. The Team managers appointed for the 2009 season are:  
East: \_\_\_\_\_  
West: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Official games which have been played under protest must be followed up by a typewritten outline of the facts which gave rise to the protest, citing the specific Rules of Baseball in question, signed by the Team Manager and delivered to the District Chairman by facsimile transmission, certified mail, hand delivery or e-mail within forty-eight (48) hours of the conclusion of the protested game with a copy thereof to the Divisional Secretary.
    - a. Upon receipt of a written protest which complies with the provisions of this Rule, the District Chairman shall forthwith convene the appropriate Divisional Protest Committee.
      - i) The Divisional Umpire in Chief shall immediately obtain a written game report from the umpires who worked the game.
    - b. The District Chairman shall promptly rule on the protest in writing at the conclusion of the Divisional Protest Committee's hearing.
      - i) Games which are to be replayed or completed 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 appropriate Divisional Umpire in Chief, who may take whatever further disciplinary action he deems appropriate.

## **RULE 11 - DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY**

- A. Upon completion of the regular season, the teams finishing one (1) through five (5) in each Division shall be paired as follows and shall compete in a best of three (3) game series, with the five (5) winners advancing to the Department Sectional Playoffs.
1. The team finishing first (1st) in each Division shall play the team finishing fifth (5th) in the other Division.
  2. The team finishing second (2nd) in each Division shall play the team finishing fourth (4th) in the other Division.
  3. The teams finishing third (3rd) in each Division shall play each other.
  4. The Final District Standings shall be determined by ranking the five (5) winning teams in descending order based upon their win/loss percentage from the regular season with tie games not being counted.
    - a. Ties in the Final District Standings shall first be determined by Divisional Standings, the team finishing higher in its Division will be ranked higher; if still tied, then the team with most Divisional points; if still tied, then the team with the most Divisional wins; if still tied, then by coin toss conducted by the District Chairman who shall assign heads & tails.
- B. All Series shall commence on \_\_\_\_\_, July \_\_\_\_, 2009 and continue daily until one (1) team wins two (2) games.
1. All Series must be completed no later than the conclusion of play on Friday, July 17, 2009.
    - a. Series in which no team has won two (2) games by the conclusion of play on July 17, 2009, shall be determined by the Team with the most wins in the Series being declared the winner; if still tied, then the Team finishing higher in its Divisional Standings; if still tied, then the Team scoring the most total runs in the Series being declared the winner; if still tied, then by a coin toss conducted by the District Chairman who shall assign heads & tails for the teams involved.
- C. The teams finishing first (1st) and second (2nd) in each Division shall have the choice of being home for either the first (1st) or second (2nd) game and shall be home for the third (3rd) game; the two (2) third (3rd) place finishing teams shall flip a coin with the winner having the election of being home for games one (1) or two (2) and shall be home for game three (3) of their Series.
- D. All games shall be of seven (7) inning duration with the results of games played to official length being final.

- E. Official length games which terminate in a tie shall be declared Suspended Games and subject to the provisions of Rule 11(B)(1), completed the following day prior to the start of the next scheduled game at the field scheduled for such next scheduled game.
- F. All games shall commence no later than 5:45 p.m. at fields without lights and no later than 8:00 p.m. at fields with lights.
- G. Each Team shall deliver a copy of their Form 1 to their opponent at the District Playoff Meeting.

## **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.

## **END OF RULES**