

**REPORT TO THE AMERICANISM COMMISSION
FALL MEETING – October 5, 2021
Indianapolis, Indiana**

**AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMITTEE
Mark Avis (MA), Vice Chairman**

The Baseball Committee met on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in conjunction with the 61st Annual Conference of Department Baseball Chairmen. Those in attendance were Gary Stone (MO), Chairman; Mark Avis (MA), Vice Chairman; Committee members Tom Drury (NM) ; Mark Cauble (NC); Jeral Howard (AR); Dennis Frizzi (PA); Jody Moeller (NE); Carl Hennell (MT); James Grenier (VA) and consultants William Haase (MI) and Jay DeSantis (WV). Also in attendance were Steve Cloud (IN), Program Manager, Americanism Division; Tom Starnes (IN), Assistant Program Manager, Americanism Division and Baseball Administrative Assistant, Tina Dunn.

Your Baseball Committee received a recap of the 2021 season from Program Manager Steve Cloud. There were 22 departments that maintained or increased their team participation from 2019. There was a total of 2,975 certified teams, 1,866 senior teams and 1,109 junior teams from 49 departments that participated this year.

The committee recommends the following changes to the 2022 American Legion Baseball Rule Book.

Rule 1.R.3. Pitching Rule - remove the word “scheduled” from “multiple games scheduled on the same day” and to read “If a pitcher throws 45 or fewer pitches in game one of multiple games on the same day, he may return to pitch in game two, up to 105 pitches total for the day. If a pitcher were to throw more than 45 pitches in game one, he would be ineligible to pitch in game two.” The word “schedule” makes the statement a little ambiguous and removing it clarifies the rule.

Rule 1.J. Fake Tag – to read “A fake tag is an act by a defensive player without the ball that simulates a tag. A fake tag is considered obstruction.” This new rule is added for player safety and sportsmanship in preventing possible retaliation for attempts at applying a fake tag.

Rule 3 & 4 Player Recruiting – Combined total enrollment of high schools cannot exceed 7,500 for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. An increase for high school enrollment was suggested by department chairman during their conference, however they unanimously rejected increasing the enrollment to 9,000. This increase of high school enrollment from 6,000 will assist with player recruiting efforts.

Rule 9.A. National Tournament Registration – establishes the 2022 deadline date for departments to certify their department winner. New rule to read “The department championship team must be certified to the Americanism Commission by the authorized department baseball official no later than 11:59 p.m. July 30, 2022. However, departments that fly to regional sites must certify their department champion no later than 11:59 p.m. July 28.”

Rule 9.J.2. Suspended Games – add paragraph “2. Pitch Count Rule 1.R. applies to suspended games.” Adding this paragraph clarifies the pitcher’s availability to return as a pitcher in the event of a suspended game.

Rule 9.K. Minimum Active Players – change the word “transfer” to “bring up” so rule will read “Teams with fewer than 12 players are permitted to bring up players registered on their affiliated Junior American Legion Baseball team roster to the senior team in order to have 12 players but may not bring up a player to exceed 12 players.” This clarifies the rule for coaches as to if and how to bring up Junior players to their senior team for national tournament play.