

MINUTES
ATHLETIC COMMITTEE
MEETING OF
February 22nd, 2026
10:00AM- In-Person

1. Call to Order 10:00 A.M.
Department Chairman Emmons opened the meeting of the Department Athletic Committee at 10:00 A.M.

2. Roll Call: Christie White, Department Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator

Members present:

Chris Emmons, Department Athletic Chairman- PRESENT
Marv Shamhart, Asst Athletic Chairman- PRESENT
Phil Lightfoot, Junior Baseball Director- PRESENT
Bryce Agner, Region 1 Baseball Director- PRESENT
Mel Cantrell, Region 2 Baseball Director- PRESENT
Bret Mavis, Region 3 Baseball Director- PRESENT
Regis Kern, Region 4 Baseball Co-Director- PRESENT, Virtual
Jeff Vrabel Jr, Region 4 Baseball Co-Director- NOT PRESENT
Mike Nye, District 5- PRESENT
William Little, District 6- NOT PRESENT
Doug Wainwright, District 11- PRESENT

Guests Present:

Christie White, Americanism and Children & Youth Coordinator
Robert Mason
B.J. Long

3. Reading of Previous Minutes

Bryce Agner, Region 1 Director motions, seconded by Phil Lightfoot, Junior Baseball Director to accept the previous minutes.

MOTION PASSED

Ohio Baseball 2026 Rulebook Review Update

New Rule- Region and State Tournament play, late arrivals will be at the discretion of the Region and/or State Director. For Regionals we Need to determine procedure for teams that drop- how many days before day 1 do we re-draw? 5 days out re-draw? Discussion was had about redraw. If the drawing has already been made, instead of having a redraw, it is a forfeit.

Marv Shamhart, Asst Chairman motioned, seconded by Phil Lightfoot, Junior Director, that if there is a team that drops out more than 2 weeks before the Regional Tournament, there will be a redraw. Any Team that drops out after the two-week cutoff, they will forfeit.

MOTION PASSED

New Rule- Pitching eligibility and appearance rules do not apply to postponed or suspended games.

Junior Teams- They will play under American Legion Rulebook, not High School rules.

4. Junior and Senior Tournament dates- Please Update Chris at the end of each tournament day with scores so he can update the website and brackets

a. Junior- July 16-19

i. Regionals must be completed by July 11th

b. Senior- July 24-27

i. Regionals must be completed by July 18th

Brackets are the same as last year, with some time changes. Day 1- noon, 2:30pm, 5pm and 7:30pm. Day 2- 10am, 12:30pm, 3pm and 5pm. Day 3- 10am, 12:30pm and 3pm. Day 4- 10am and 30 minutes after if necessary. Chairman Emmons already seeded the teams by drawing them out of a hat ahead of time.

Brayce Agner, Region 1 Director motions, seconded by Mel Cantrell, Region 2 Director to accept the new brackets and gametimes.

MOTION PASSED

5. Team fees

a. Junior- \$500.00

b. Senior- \$600.00

Meal money for teams was discussed.

Phil Lightfoot, Junior Director motions, seconded by Marv Shamhart, Asst Chairman to get rid of meal money for the Regional Tournaments.

MOTION PASSED

6. National Regional Tournament Dates- August 5th-9th Lexington, KY

7. Background Check & Abuse Awareness Training

8. National Updates

1.G. Courtesy Runners. Departments may use the courtesy runner rule for their respective American Legion Baseball program during regular and post season. – Ohio not using it.

1.S. One-Way Communication. A coach may use a one-way electronic communication device to communicate with the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches. Coaches may not use electronic communication device(s) to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense. When using the electronic communication device, the coach cannot be outside the dugout/bench area. A tablet computer used for scorekeeping purposes only is permissible.- APPROVED

6.D. Dual Participation. *“POINT OF EMPHASIS”* The American Legion believes team loyalty is

a key ingredient for any team sport. Dual participation shall no way interfere with a player's responsibility to his American Legion Baseball team. Once state tournament play has completely concluded and should there be open dates prior to team travel (August 3) to national regional tournaments, a player(s) may be granted permission to dual participate from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman. Any player participating in another sanctioned baseball game/tournament during the American Legion post-season tournament dates shall be ineligible from further post-season tournament play. **CLARIFICATION** – Players attending military assignment, MLB-sanctioned invitation only event, player combine/evaluation of extended drills and/or game-like scenarios events, or college of enrollment orientation workouts may be granted an exception on a case-by-case basis with proper documentation. Prior written approval from the American Legion Baseball Committee chairman is required.- 6.D is for clarification purposes only.

9.L. Minimum Active Players. Teams competing in American Legion Baseball senior national tournaments (including state tournaments) must have nine players available for participation at a national tournament at all times. Senior teams that have fewer player available from their approved roster strength are permitted to bring up players registered on their affiliated Junior American Legion Baseball team roster to the senior team to approved roster strength not to exceed a total of 18 players. **CLARIFICATION** – If the Senior team's approved roster strength is 16 players, the team is allowed to only transfer enough Junior players to a roster strength of 16 players.

Any players transferred from junior team to senior team must be approved and certified by the department baseball chairman. The junior roster must be registered with the national office by June 30. Any senior team that does not have nine players will forfeit its right to participate, and the National Americanism Division – in consultation with the department baseball chairman – shall determine a suitable replacement team.- **CLARIFICATION**

9.M. Between Inning Time Limit. Between innings, teams have 120 seconds (or 150 seconds for a relief pitcher) to be ready for the first pitch (pitcher holding the ball and touching the pitcher's plate and a batter standing in the batter's box ready to hit). The 120 second clock (or 150 second clock for a relief pitcher) shall start when all defensive players have started to leave their positions after the last out has been made and stops when the umpire calls "Play" for the first pitch of the first batter of the next half-inning. 3rd base umpire will use a stop- watch if a clock is not available. If there are unusual circumstances that prevent either team from getting on or off the field, other common -sense delays such as ceremonies or field maintenance not the fault of the teams, or an injury, the time clock is delayed until players have had an opportunity to begin to move to their positions. If the offensive team is not ready within the 120 second or 150 second clock, the umpire shall call a strike. If the defense is not ready, a ball shall be awarded to the first batter.- **APPROVED**

The following MLB rules have not been adopted for regular season or tournament play.

- 18-inch Bases rule 2.03 (if used-no penalty or forfeit)
- Limit the number of throws (pick-off attempts) to 1B
- Minimum Batters Faced Requirements rule 5.10(g)
- Ohtani Rule 5.11(b). ALB rule is DH for pitchers only
- Pitcher's Clock
 - a. Pitcher Delays rule 5.07(c) will be observed but not timed
 - b. When the bases are unoccupied, the pitcher shall deliver the ball to the batter within 12 seconds after he receives the ball. Each time the pitcher delays the game by violating this rule, the umpire shall call a "Ball"
- Mound Visits
 - a. Limitation on Number of Mound Visits per Game rule 5.10(m)
 - b. ALB will continue to follow the 2 visits per inning that requires a change of pitcher rule 5.10(l)

9. New Business

a.Brackets- approved

- i. Random Draw
- ii. Friday game times
- iii. Team Packets- do not need rosters, as we use online ALB rosters. Need room assignments. Change the rooming list so the 18 year olds are in one room.

b.Post 532- Fred Valentine- voting members of the committee discussed the issue.

Mel Cantrell, Region 2 Director, motions, seconded by Phil Lightfoot, Junior Director, to suspend Fred Valentine from participating in Ohio American Legion Baseball, in any form, permanently.

MOTION PASSED

Department will draft a letter to send to Fred Valentine and National

C. Gamechanger. Gamechanger integration. An Ohio Junior and Senior League have been created.

10.Unfinished Business

a. Super Regional Locations- Again End of Day score updates to Chris

i.Junior Regional Tournaments

- Region 1- July 8th-11th, 2026- Location TBD
- Region 2- July 6th- 8th. Bellefontaine High School.
- Region 3- July 8th- 11th. Chillicothe VA Memorial Stadium.
- Region 4- July 8th-11th. Pioneer Park at Marietta College.

ii.Senior Regional Tournaments

- Region 1- July 15th- 18th. Location TBD
- Region 2- July 15th- 18th. Bellefontaine High School.
- Region 3- July 15th- 18th. Chillicothe VA Memorial Stadium.
- Region 4- July 15th- 18th- Pioneer Park at Marietta College.

11. Review Teams that have registered so far for 2026 – Chris discussed with the Committee what Junior and Senior Teams have registered with National so far.

Discussion was had about looking into moving the Junior Tournament to Chillicothe VA field since they won't charge.

Discussion was had about charging an entrance fee to people that attend the games. Chairman Emmons and Coordinator White will look into options.

12. Salute the colors

13.Adjourned 11:41AM until the coaches/managers meeting at 1:00PM

MEETING OF
February 22nd, 2026
1:00PM- Coaches and Managers
In-person and Virtual

Call to Order 1:00 P.M.

Department Chairman Emmons opened the meeting of the Coaches/Managers meeting at 1: P.M.

Chairman Emmons did introductions of the Athletic Committee Directors and Chairmen.

Teams present-

Brilliant Post 573

Beverly/Lowell Post 389/750

Carey Post 344

Wooster Post 68

Napoleon Post 300

Marysville Post 79

Utica Post 92

Harrison Post 199

Post 138

Cambridge Post 84

Post 64

Zanesville Post 29

Post 139

Meigs Post 128

Lancaster Post 11

Post 764

Post 344

Chairman Emmons went over a PowerPoint he created for the coaches/managers. Registration, no patch/no play, paperwork. Form 2- Player Agreement. Form 76- Transfer Form. June 5th is the deadline for transfer forms. Read the rulebook. Pitching rules- 105 pitches max. Pitch count/rest days added into the rulebook. One way communication is allowed, coach to catcher, on defense only. Between inning time limit, 120 seconds.

State Tournament Draw-

Junior- Play in games will be opposite of who is in the bracket. Game 1- #2 and # 3 Game 2- #1 and #4.

#1 seed- Region 1

#2 seed- Region 4

#3 seed- Region 2

#4 seed- Region 3

Senior-

#1 seed- Region 2

#2 seed- Region 3

#3 seed- Region 1

#4 seed- Region 4

Gamechanger- Ohio American Legion Baseball Junior and Senior Leagues have been created. Asking all teams to go and join it.

The MLB rules we do not follow were discussed from the earlier meeting.

Adjourned- 1:45PM

Important Dates to Review

- Thursday January 1st, 2026, Registration Opens
- Sunday February 22nd Commission Meeting 10am / Coaches Meeting 1pm
- March 31st Deadline to establish players legal residence
- June 1st Deadline for Team Registrations
- June 5th Deadline to submit Transfer forms
- June 25th Deadline for Rosters/insurance and Team Packets
- Monday July 13th 6pm ALB Directors Teams Call to cover Regional Tournaments
- July 16-19, 2026, Ohio Junior State Tournament
 - Jr Regional tournaments Must be completed by Saturday July 11, 2026
- July 24-27, 2026, Ohio Senior State Tournament
 - Sr Regional Tournaments Must be completed by Saturday July 18, 2026
- TBD Mason-Dixon Junior National Regional Maryland
- August 5-9, 2026, National Senior Regionals Location TBD
- August 11-18, 2026, ALB World Series
- September 1st, 2026, Official Close of the 2026 Season