

**2021**

**ST. CLOUD AREA  
AMERICAN LEGION  
BASEBALL LEAGUE**

**PLAYING RULES**

**March 31, 2021**

# 2021 ST. CLOUD AREA AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL LEAGUE PLAYING RULES

Revised: March 31, 2021

## CONTENTS

1. TEAMS
2. CANCELLED GAMES
3. OFFICIAL BASEBALL
4. LEAGUE PLAY
5. FORFEITS
6. COURTESY RUNNER / SPEED UP RULE
7. RE-ENTRY
8. DESIGNATED HITTER RULE
9. FIRST AID KIT
10. HELMETS
11. PITCH COUNTS
12. EJECTION POLICY
13. UMPIRES

## TEAMS

1	Becker	4	Sauk Rapids	7	Little Falls	10	Cold Spring
2	St. Cloud Chutes	5	Sartell	8	Monticello		
3	St. Cloud 76ers	6	Foley	9	Waite Park		

## CANCELLED GAMES

1. Cancelled games will not be re-scheduled unless both teams agree to a time and date. Once the time and date have been agreed to, no changes can be made (i.e., reschedule a game and then at a later time decide you don't want to play the game). In this case it would be a financial penalty since agreement to play occurred.
2. Eligible games for cancellation without a financial penalty include rainouts and conflicts from the MSHSL state baseball tournament. All games the whole week of the MSHSL tournament's quarterfinals and semifinals plus the day of the finals (recently has been on the following Monday after the quarterfinals and semifinals) will be cancelled if at least one of the teams is participating in the MSHSL tournament (unless both teams agree to play). Even if a MSHSL Tournament participating team has not qualified for the finals, they are allowed to attend the finals. In addition, LEAGUE SCHEDULED GAMES ONE DAY AFTER A STATE TOURNAMENT GAME will also be automatically cancelled.
3. New in 2019 is a financial penalty of \$100 will be assessed for a cancelled game that does not include #2 above. The fee shall be paid to their opponent prior to the end of the season.

Exempt games are only related to the MSHSL Tournament or rainouts. If the fee is not paid in a timely manner the team will not be eligible for league play the following year.

4. For 2021: Due to the potential for Covid related cancellations (due to MDH guidelines of direct contact and/or tracing) those cancelled games will not be rescheduled. They will be Eligible Cancellation Games. In this case supporting documentation shall be sent to Brian Deyak. In most cases a Covid cancellation will generally be extended for 10 – 14 days.
5. The roster can include 18 players and each team is encouraged to fill the roster completely to help prevent canceled games due to a lack of players.

### **OFFICIAL BASEBALL**

1. During the regular season, the home team is responsible for all game baseballs. The home team can choose the brand and type of baseball for their home games. Whatever ball is chosen it must be consistently used throughout the game. The Diamond D1 is the preferred baseball.

### **LEAGUE PLAY**

Note: coaches at each individual game cannot modify these rules. For insurance purposes these rules must be followed. If teams and officials modify these rules, then they potentially forfeit all insurance coverage by American Legion Baseball.

1. During the league's regular season, National American Legion Baseball rules must be followed with the following exceptions: Courtesy runners are allowed, re-entry is allowed and the designated hitter, if used, is allowed for the pitcher only. See details below.
2. If a team is reduced to less than nine (9) players due to injury, the team may "re-enter" a player who has already participated in the game. This is in an effort to keep playing the game since participation of the event is important to all involved.
3. Forfeit games after 30 minutes from start time.
4. In the case of back-to-back games at the MAC, the second game start time would be 40 minutes after the completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> game or the posted start time, whichever is later.
5. Uniforms and patches are expected for all team participants, but not required during the league play. *Other exhibition games and in-season tournaments may require these items.*
6. **GAME ENDING AND 10-RUN RULE (seven inning games)** The game ends when
  - A. The visiting team completes its half of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning provided their runs are fewer than the number scored by the home team in six (6) innings, or
  - B. after five (5) innings of a seven (7) inning game, if a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.

7. **REGULATION GAME (seven inning games)** It is a regulation game if:
- A. Five (5) full innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four (4) or four-and-a-fraction (4 +) terms at bat than the opponent has scored in five (5) terms at bat; or
  - B. If play has gone beyond five (5) full innings.

In (B), the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed terms at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; except that if the home team, in their half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.

8. **Both teams shall report scores to Brian Deyak (via e-mail) ASAP after your games.**  
Brian does not want to be calling around for this
9. Scores accumulated on <http://www.profieldsmn.com/st-cloud-legion-baseball-league/>
10. All regular season games are seven (7) innings.
11. Home team supplies baseballs
12. Home team pays for umpires

### **FORFEITS**

Forfeiting team will be responsible for paying umpires. Forfeits will occur 30 minutes after original start time.

### **COURTESY RUNNER / SPEED UP RULE**

During the regular season: Use the MSHSL rule. This rule is not in conflict with the American Legion rules but applies an additional restriction to the rule. The MSHSL rule will be easier for both umpires and teams since they are already accustomed to the rule from the HS season. The rule states:

1. The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or catcher. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
2. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
3. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then substitute for another player in that inning.
4. The umpire-in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation.
5. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute.

Exception: Should an injury, illness or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may run.

During post-season play the MLB rules will apply, and no courtesy runner is allowed in the Sub-State Tournaments.

## **RE-ENTRY**

The re-entry rule shall apply to the regular season and all league games. Any of the starting players (9 players if no DH, 10 players if DH) may be withdrawn and re-enter once, including a player who was the DH, provided such player occupies the same batting position whenever he is in the lineup. A substitute who has withdrawn may NOT re-enter.

## **DESIGNATED HITTER RULE**

The designated hitter rule is the American League rule. It applies to the pitcher only. For league play this is the rule that will apply since modification could create legal complications involving an injury for umpires, players, coaches and administrations. Note: The pitcher CAN NOT DH for himself.

## **FIRST AID KIT**

Each Team is required to have a first aid kit available in the dugout.

## **HELMETS**

All players must wear a double-flapped, ear protective helmet at all times while batting, running the bases, on deck and coaches' boxes.

Coaches must have a standard helmet with or without earflaps.

## **PITCH COUNTS**

The pitch count rule applies to the whole season and is self-policing during league play. During games each team shall keep track of both team's pitches and team representatives shall confirm the number between innings.

## **EJECTION POLICY (LEAGUE PLAY)**

A progressive game suspension policy as follows for league games:

1 <sup>st</sup> ejection:	suspended from that game and one additional league game
2 <sup>nd</sup> ejection:	suspended from that game and two additional league games
3 <sup>rd</sup> ejection:	suspended from that game and three additional league games etc.

The District Director will determine IF suspensions will carry-over from league play to sub-state play.

## **UMPIRES**

1. Assigned umpires will contact the home team coach at least 24 hours prior to game time. The coach should confirm ASAP. It is suggested that a text and/or e-mail is used to communicate and creates a record of the communication. If the coach does not receive contact from the umpire within this time the coach should contact Bob Kremer immediately.
2. In the case of rain out, coaches must contact umpires directly.
3. If rain out occurs and umpires are not contacted prior to showing up at the game, then they will be paid half fee.
4. If a ball game is started and rain cancels it before completion the umpires will be paid full fees.
5. If umpires show up at the game site and either team forfeits the game, they will be paid full fees.
6. Two umpires will be used for the regular season.
7. If you are planning a tournament, please contact Bob Kremer at least four weeks prior to the tournament dates.
8. **UMPIRES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO THE START OF A GAME**