

November 13, 2016

American Legion Baseball:
Fall 2016 Update from State Director Mike Perry

Coaches/Managers:

- ***If you are no longer involved with your American Legion Baseball team, please let me know right away so I can correct our Master Database. Please forward this email to your replacement so that we can maintain a correct database as well as continuity.***
- ***I hope everyone has had a great fall and that you are well rested after the baseball season. Listed below are a few new items for you to be aware of for the 2017 baseball season.***
- ***TEAM REGISTRATION: We will start the team registration process about the middle of January. I will be sending out information about team registration at that time.***
- ***PITCH SMART: As with the high schools, American Legion Baseball will be incorporating a pitch count for the 2017 season [starting with Sub-State/Districts]. Although you are not required to adhere to this pitch count during your regular season, it is highly recommended that you follow the pitch count so that you and your players are not making a huge adjustment during post-season play. A committee consisting of members of the Baseball Committee as well as high school and Legion coaches has been assigned the task of formulating a pitch count policy for Minnesota American Legion Baseball. The exact plan will be rolled out about mid-February.***
- ***DIVISION 2-STATE TOURNAMENT: In 2017, Division 2 will have an eight-team State Tournament [this includes the Host]. A committee is in the process of revamping the playoff structure for advancement to the State Tournament. This will be sent out about the first of February.***
- ***JUNIOR STATE TOURNAMENT: The State Tournament in Apple Valley will be held one week later this year, starting the week of July 24, 2017. This will be a 16-team tournament [including the Host].***
- ***TEAM PARTICIPATION IN PLAYOFFS: Beginning in the 2017 season, each Team Coach will be required to sign a form stating that his Team will participate with their full roster [a minimum of 12 players for Division 1] throughout the entire playoff format [i.e. Sub-State/District; State; Regional; World Series]. Failure to comply with this policy will mean that the Team will NOT be playoff eligible the following season.***

- **ETIQUETTE SURROUNDING OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM:** The American Legion expects participants of its programs to show proper respect for the U.S. Flag at all times, including during the performance of the National Anthem. If a participant cannot or will not meet this Legion expectation, the individual will **NOT** be a participant in American Legion programs. The exact guidelines for this policy will be sent out to all Coaches, Tournament Site Directors, etc. this spring.
- **STATE TOURNAMENT BIDS:** At the Spring Meeting of the Baseball Committee in April 2017, we will be taking bids for State Tournaments for both Division 1 & 2 for Tournaments in 2020 and 2021. If your program is interested in hosting a State Tournament, please contact me so I can get you on the spring agenda.

Thank you for everything you do for American Legion Baseball and please enjoy the upcoming holiday season with your friends and families.

Mike Perry
State Director
Mikeperry5@comcast.net