

On Aug. 12, 2017, the National Executive Committee of The American Legion approved a number of rule changes for the American Legion Baseball program.

The 2018 rule book will be released in January. Until then, the changes are outlined below.

National tournament play will feature seven-inning games

Departments will still have the option to play nine-inning games during the regular season, however, beginning at the state tournament and all the way through the American Legion World Series, games will be seven innings.

Changes to pitch count

After a tremendously successful first season with pitch count rules under the PitchSmart program, the Legion Baseball Committee, with the support of the department baseball chairmen, adjusted the pitch count chart ahead of the 2018 season to be more in line with the suggestions from Major League Baseball and USA Baseball.

Pitchers will have a daily maximum of 105 pitches per day, down from 120.

Required rest will be as follows: 1-30 pitches: 0 days; 31-45 pitches: 1 day; 46-60 pitches: 2 days; 61-80 pitches: 3 days; 81+ pitches: 4 days

Pitchers may only make two appearances in any three consecutive days. Players will be charged with two appearances if they leave the pitching position and return as a pitcher in the same game.

Courtesy runner and re-entry

In regular season play only, departments may have the option to allow for courtesy runners and re-entry. Courtesy runners may be permitted for pitchers or catchers.

Departments that allow for re-entry may permit players to be substituted and return to the game once, provided the player returns to the same slot in the batting order.

Graduate rule

Language has been removed from the rule book that required 19-year-olds to be former Legion players. Any interested 19-year-old must now play for their previous Legion team (if applicable) or the team closest to their domicile.

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