

# PLAYER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS RULE 2

- A. **Player Age.** Senior American Legion Baseball competition in 2017 is open only to players born on or after Jan. 1, 1998.

**JR**

## **JUNIOR AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL**

Competition in 2017 is open only to players born on or after Jan. 1, 2000. Junior American Legion Baseball shall be limited to ages 17 and younger. Any player born in 1999 or 1998 is NOT eligible to play in the junior program. Any player born on or after Jan. 1, 2005, is not eligible to play American Legion Baseball.

## **POINT OF EMPHASIS**

Jan. 1 is the universal cut-off date observed by the U.S. Olympic Committee. The American Legion will observe a Jan. 1 cut-off date. If a player was born in 1996, that player is not eligible for Senior Legion Baseball. A player born in 1999 or 1998 is not eligible for Junior Legion Baseball. Players born in 2005 or earlier are not eligible to play American Legion Baseball.

- B. **Player's Domicile.** A player's legal domicile shall be established before March 31, 2017.
1. A player's domicile shall be his parent's or permanent court-appointed guardian's permanent and legal domicile.

## **CLARIFICATION**

Temporary guardianship does not apply unless a court having jurisdiction over such matters has determined the parents to be incapable of supervision and care until the player reaches the age of majority (18). Emancipated college or university players are required to play for the team nearest their parent's domicile or the team for which they last played. The American Legion does not allow emancipated players to be "free agents."

## POINT OF EMPHASIS

Since 1925, American Legion eligibility has always been tied to the team nearest the parent's domicile or the school the player attends, provided the team complies with all other rules. If he is 18 or older, the player's domicile or emancipation status has no bearing on that player's eligibility. If a player wishes to play American Legion Baseball, that player and his parents must comply with our domicile rules. The American Legion recruiting rules do not permit a temporary domicile, post office box or address of a relative, nor do our rules allow temporary guardianship. The American Legion does allow a player, if eligible under all the rules, to try out for the team nearest to the player's parent's legal domicile or the school that player attends. A player who graduated from high school in 2016 must have appeared on a previous certified Legion team roster and must play for the Legion team on which he last played. The Legion team shall count the enrollment of the high school last attended by this player.

2. If the parents are divorced by a court order, that player may play for a team of either parent's legal and permanent domicile provided:
  - a) The player must declare, in writing, the team of his choice and file that declaration with the department chairman prior to the department closing date. The player's declaration shall be final and valid for the remainder of the player's eligibility.

## CLARIFICATION

The enrollment of the school in which a player is enrolled on March 31 shall be counted. The completion of National Form #2 shall be proof of the player's choice. Once a player is deemed qualified and plays for a team under Rule 2.B.2, that player is not eligible to qualify for Rule 4.D (transfer rule). The player's eligibility is tied to that team.

## POINT OF EMPHASIS

If a player's parents are legally divorced by a court having jurisdiction over such matters, The American Legion allows that player to choose the team for which he'll play: the team nearest the mother's or father's domicile. Players are not allowed to change teams the following year. The enrollment of the player's school shall be counted. We recommend the player and his coach write a letter of declaration to the state chairman in advance. If a player fails to declare, the address listed in his first year of eligibility will be used as his declaration.

3. In the event that both parents are deceased or incapable of caring for and supervising the player during minority, the player's domicile will be determined by the domicile of the permanent legal guardian appointed by the courts having jurisdiction to make such an appointment.
  4. 2016 Graduated Students: Players/students who graduated from high school in 2016 shall have additional eligibility restrictions.
    - a) Players who graduated in 2016 shall play for the last American Legion team they played for. If a team should fail to form and/or exist, or the graduated player last played for a junior program, the player must play for the team nearest his parents' domicile. Players who graduated in 2016 shall not be eligible to be transferred (Forms #76 or #77). Their names must have appeared on a previously approved American Legion Baseball team roster.
  5. In situations not covered by the provision of this rule, the department chairman will, with the concurrence of the National Appeals Board, determine the player's legal domicile for the purpose of his participation in the American Legion Baseball program. Such decisions shall be in writing and filed with National Headquarters.
- C. Professional Baseball Contract.** Players who are 18 years of age may be signed to a professional baseball contract in accordance with the rules of professional baseball.
- D. Amateur Rule.** Only amateurs shall participate as players in American Legion Baseball. To be considered an amateur, players must not:



1. Receive money, favors or gratuities, direct or indirect, for playing baseball.
2. Accept money or favors for reimbursement for time lost at work while playing or for expenses incurred while playing.
3. Participate in an all-star baseball game that is not approved by the authorized department official.
4. Accept, directly or indirectly, money or any favors from anyone for their baseball services, past or present. This also applies to a player's parents, trustees, guardians, etc.

### CLARIFICATION

It is important that teams select and register players who will complete their obligation to their American Legion team. Any player who signs a professional contract cannot be replaced on National Form #1.

5. Try out for any professional team without the written permission of their American Legion Baseball coach or post commander.

**Note:** Departments, districts or posts planning an all-star game should contact their state high school athletic association to ensure that each player's high school eligibility is protected.

**E. Proof of Age.** The American Legion will accept as proof of age:

1. Records of birth that are an original or a certified document by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health or other governmental agency authorized to certify birth documents.
  - a) Notarized photocopies of birth certificates, hospital records, baptismal records, school records or certificates are not acceptable proof of age and will disqualify a player and/or the team.

## POINT OF EMPHASIS

If the birth certificate is produced and bears a seal of the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or federal government agency, The American Legion will accept that document. A driver's license that meets the federal Real ID law is now acceptable; however, hospital and baptismal records are not acceptable. Players or coaches who need to obtain an official birth certificate should contact the Bureau of Vital Statistics. Information is listed online at **[www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball)**. Requests for birth certificates should be sent early since many states require four to six weeks to process and provide such documentation. The American Legion requires a government-produced document. The two documents that cause players to be declared ineligible are hospital certificates and photocopies of birth certificates that have been notarized.

2. A state-issued driver's license that complies with the Federal Real ID Law, or a state-issued ID that is also in compliance with the Federal Real ID Law.
3. A U. S. government-issued passport.
4. A U. S. government-issued military ID card or dependent ID card.
5. An American Legion Baseball ID card issued by those departments. The American Legion Baseball ID card shall be purchased from the national office and shall be laminated and recognized by the embossed sportsmanship code on the back of the card.
6. In case of foreign birth, a player will present any certificate or document duly issued to the bearer by the Department of Homeland Security or by the Department of State that shows the birth date of the bearer. Official birth certificates issued by a foreign country are acceptable when accompanied by a letter with an English translation, and must have an official seal.
7. A court-certified copy of that portion of permanent legal adoption papers showing the place and date of a player's birth shall be acceptable in cases involving adopted players.

## **POINT OF EMPHASIS**

The American Legion will accept a document issued by a U. S. government agency or a foreign government-issued birth certificate if that document is an original or has a raised seal or stamp with an English translation. The American Legion will accept documents from any federal government agency.