

Coaches Memo: 2022 Alaska Legion Development Season

The ALB Development season runs May 28 to July 17 for all Legion AA teams. The AA Championship Season runs July 21-26, including State Tournament season rules for those teams in Alaska Legion State Tournament will include no re-entry or courtesy runners.

The Matson Invitational will utilize high school re-entry and courtesy runner. Development season runs June 5 through Aug. 7 for A teams These development rules apply to all league, nonleague, and approved exhibition games vs non-Legion teams, including Legion games in invitational tournaments played in Alaska.

It is the responsibility of each Post Manager outside of Anchorage to make local umpires aware of this coach's memo under which games are conducted. It is the responsibility of Post Manager in other areas of the State where games are played to provide local umpires with this memo and see to it that is followed for development season rules, i.e., re-entry and courtesy runners, run rule etc. AA Post Managers should pass this on to their Legion A team coaches. Retain a copy of this memo to present to the umpire if there are questions. All other game rules follow Alaska ALB 2022 rules as posted on the Alaska ALB website, www.alaskalegion.com and the Official Rules of Baseball - NOT the NHFS High school rules.

2. Due to Alaska's short season, the development season is about teaching as many players as possible game situations. Maximum roster use is encouraged to all coaches.

3. Each team in a game may choose to utilize the following, but permission to use these development rules DOES NOT depend on the other team agreeing. DH for pitcher only HS re-entry per Federation rules including DH but for the pitcher only. Note this mean's the DH and the pitcher may never be on the field defensively at the same time. Courtesy runner for catcher and pitcher per HS Federation rules

4. Time limits apply to Legion A games. See Alaska rules for time limits on Legion A games which is no new inning after 2 hour 15 minutes. Time limits do not apply to AA games, unless travel issues, or tournament play dictate. Likewise, some tournaments have pre-determined advancement rules, i.e., last team to score wins after time limit etc., or extra inning guidelines. Teams are to follow those guidelines.

5. Mercy rule in the development season is 10 runs after 5 innings (4 1/2 if home team is ahead) This applies in all Legion AA and Legion A games.

6. Home team takes infield staring 30 minutes prior to game start for 12 minutes followed by visitor for 12 minutes. Coaches report to home plate prior to game start. Each team responsible to list all players that will participate on the roster turned in at home plate. Unless indicated otherwise, the home team is the official book.

7. Legion AA points are 4 win, 2 tie, 1 loss, 0 forfeit. See the posted 2022 tiebreaker procedure on the Alaska Legion website for seeding for the State Tournament and Matson Invitational.

8. Forfeits

ALB in Alaska organizes and schedules games for the benefit of all teams to get game competition around the state. A lot of time is spent developing the schedules. These games are meant to be played; otherwise, why would they be scheduled? Forfeits caused by the lack of available players are the responsibility of the Post Manager or each program to include AA and A teams. This is part of what coaches sign up for in ALB coaching. After one forfeit loss due to lack of available players that Post Manager and team will be on notice from the Department regarding this status. And while points are not awarded for nonleague games, ALB will not allow teams to "blow off" and forfeit games that do not count in the standing to save pitching or rest players. Any indications of actions of this type may be viewed as a breach of ALB coaches code of conduct. Consequences may include penalties for the team in regards to position standings and eligibility for postseason play of any type, as well as coach's sanctions to include dismissal. Reminder under MLB rules of baseball 9 players must be present to start a game. During a game, in the event that a team cannot provide 9 able bodied players on the field that game is a forfeit. HS re-entry rules allow a starting player to return, but only for the place in the batting order that replaced them.

Any non-league game cancelled without the Department Chairman's approval will result in a forfeit for both teams – in addition, each team will be docked 4 points from their league standing point total. *(New to 2022 ALB Rulebook).*

9. Different levels of play

In just about every other HS age sport in Alaska, classifications of play is based on school enrollment decisions, i.e., 4A are largest

school, 3A the next etc. Some games may be played between AA and A teams. In 2022 those teams will act appropriately and follow good sportsmanship guidelines. Any games issues caused by a team's indifference to the effort to schedule games, will be addressed by the Dept Chair.

10. Home team responsibility and makeup games

Under Alaska 2022 ALB rules, it is the home team's responsibility to have the field ready for play. The decision to call off a game due to unfavorable playing conditions belongs to the home team. Once the games begin, the continuance of play is in the hands of the umpires. Games that are called due to weather or other conditions, must be re-scheduled by the home team to be played within 7 days of the date of the original game. Any variance from this **MUST** be approved by Dept Chair or designee within 3 days of the original game scheduled. Failure to do so, may result in a forfeited game. This is for all LEAGUE and NON-LEAGUE games. Any attempt to affect the scheduled playing of a game to get a pitching or match up advantage will be considered gamesmanship...and a potential violation of ALB coaches ethics code. Sanctions and/ or dismissal are at the discretion of Rules Chair Russ Baker.

Under ALB guidelines suspended games that have to be resumed have the following criteria. Games will be resumed from exact point of suspension by the umpires. In regards to pitch count all ALB approved pitch count protocols *must* be followed. For example, if a pitcher in the game has thrown 35 pitches, they **MAY NOT** pitch the next day if the game is resumed. If the suspended game is played several days later...all pitch count guidelines for that time period when that game is resumed must, be followed.

11. Failure to Travel

With the size of Alaska, many teams travel long distances to play the 60-day plus season. Any team that fails to honor their schedule commitment to travel for a series of games faces significant discipline from the Department that may include changes in standings and eligibility for postseason play, curtailing of games and for coaches sanctions and /or dismissal.

12. Social Media

Coaches are reminded to caution your players, and your own coaches regarding use of social media regarding Alliance and American Legion games, activities, officials, decisions etc. Quite frankly all you need to know is that college athletics are enacting rules and procedures on a regular basis that govern social media comments made by their athlete's coaches. There is not a ban on these activities at this time, but be careful. Do not fall into a behavior that may damage your team, your reputation and ultimately your participation in ALB Baseball this year and ALB games in future years.

Any kind of hazing on social media or on the field is prohibited and punishment includes removal from our league.

13. Seeds and gum at FieldTurf fields

It is the responsibility of each coach in a dugout to STOP players and other coaches from using seeds on FieldTurf fields. Signage is posted but regardless this is your warning. Zero tolerance. While umpires are allowed to remove players and coaches from games - further violations may be dealt with fines and/or other consequences by offending teams that may include suspension, change in league standings up to removal from post season play. These fields include Lee Jordan at Loretta French, Oberg, Kosinski 4 and 3, Bartlett and Mulcahy Stadium, McManus Field,

Wasilla HS and or Redington HS field (if used) and Herman Bros field as well as any action taking place at Polar Little League's Lions Park at Blackburn Field. Games will also be played in Fairbanks, Kenai and Ketchikan and Juneau. Furthermore, garbage in the dugout area is also a reflection of a team's behavior. Have your team clean up your dugout after games and practices.

14. ALB Diamond Baseballs

The official baseball for Legion AA teams and A games in 2022 is the Diamond AL specifically made for Alliance to play nationally. These special logo balls are to be used for all league play. Any other baseballs that are used must be Diamond baseballs. In league and non-league games, home team furnishes the baseball. Tournaments may have different rules. Failure to comply with this policy may result in team and coach discipline.

15. Up until the games through June 12 any AA rostered players may play in an A game. However NO more than three league age 18-year-olds may be on a lineup card including subs for the A team. AA players playing in A games and additional A play. See AK ALB 2022. Up to 3 players AA can be named for playing in A games and must be rostered on the AA team registration form. Failure to submit the named players to the Dept by June 15, may jeopardize AA teams standings, or post season seeding. (If teams do not submit names that means they declare zero crossover players). ALB leadership should not have to chase down these named AA players each Post Manager is required to submit the names.

Beginning on June 12, the only AA players allowed to play in AA games are those on the AA roster. These are AA players playing down. No other A/JV players allowed to play up in AA. No

exceptions and violations will reflect on the Post Manager of the AA team, and may cause sanctions to teams, loss in the standings and post season penalties. Beginning July 22 thru July 27 these three named AA players may ONLY play in AA games for the remainder of the season that would include NOT playing in the Alaska Legion A State Tournament. No game or inning limit is involved for any players, except for ALB Alaska national pitching count rules, which applies to BOTH levels of play if a player is pitching in AA and A games.

Maximum roster for AA teams is 18 players. Maximum roster for A teams is 18 players.

16. Emergency A players to be added

After July 1st, additional A players that reside in the teams recruiting area, may be rostered that are not entered by completing an online registration form/parent permission, registering them with alaskalegion.com and getting written permission from the Dept to add those players to the A roster of a team so that the team may participate in games. Those players are covered under a separate insurance policy and may participate with an A team until the end of the A season August 1st.

17. Pregame protocol

Home team to sit in 1st base dugout, unless specific field locations have traditional assignments. In the event of a doubleheader teams do not need to switch dugouts. Infield will begin 30 minutes ahead of game start for no more than 12 minutes for each team. A meeting at home plate with umpire follows. Time between doubleheaders should be minimum of 20 minutes but may be as much as 30 minutes if both teams agree. However, arrival of umpires for the 2nd game may dictate the start time.

18. Two Umpires

In AA and A games there is a general expectation to have two umpires. In the event of only one umpire being available the game will continue. In the event of no umpires are present, coaches will mutually decide on starting of the game and continuation.

19. Each team is responsible for shagging balls at all fields, even though schedule listed home team furnishes balls.

20 Coaches are to be in uniform unless circumstances prevent it. Coaches not in uniform are confined to the dugout, and MAY NOT address umpires, or coach bases. Coaches may wear wind breaker and pants as long as uniform is worn underneath.

21. Ejections: If Legion AA or Legion A player or coach, or spectator is ejected from a game the ejection is for the remainder of the game and 2 additional games. Players and coaches may not participate in any Legion game during this time period. The player /coach/spectator needs to leave the immediate area of the game. Umpires may dictate further limits if there is unwillingness to vacate the immediate area of the game. Failure to do so will have consequences for player/coach and the Post Manager. On the 2nd ejection of the season, the coach/players MUST be re-instated before participating in games by Dept Chair or designee. See 2022 Alaska ALB Rule book for specifics on ejections protocol.

For traveling teams, an ejected player or coach can quietly sit in the stands for the remainder of their suspension. Any type of unruly or disrespectful behavior will result in additional disciplinary action.

22. On fields with multiple games, it is the duty of the teams who have finished to play to exit the field ASAP. Conduct your post game discussion outside the field, in other words no running of sprints etc., when other teams are waiting.

23. Batting cages are to be shared by all teams at sites, but priority is to the team with upcoming games prior to 60 minutes before the start time. Bullpens are for the exclusive use of the teams on the field.

At Mulcahy Stadium, the home team sits in first base and uses the right-field bullpen and batting cage.

24. Scores should be reported to Van Williams via email or text after each game.

25. Players eligibility requirements are clearly spelled out in the 2022 AK rule book. Released players or players cut are to follow Legion rules. Only the Dept Rules Chair can approve transfers. There are specific rules for players in their final year of eligibility.

26. The 2022 Alaska ALB rules take precedent over previous rulings, or assumptions. All Post Managers and coaches should read the entire Alaska ALB 2022 rules. The Official Rules of Baseball are also followed and NOT NHFS rules. Coaches should familiarize themselves with the rules. Ultimately the Post Manager of the AA team is responsible for actions of JV teams. If coaches have a question, consult the Dept Chair via email or text in advance. Failure to read the AK ALB rules may have consequences. Be advised. In all cases the ruling of the AK Dept Chair Rules is final.

27. See Alaska 2022 rule book for ALB proved pitch count, days of rest, number of appearances. These rules carry over between players that play on both AA and A teams.