

2019 ALB Coaches Memo for use during Development Season including game protocol

It is the responsibility of each Post Manager to furnish a copy of this to all of your AA and A coaches and area umpires. Lack of knowledge of these procedures falls to the Post Manager as our mailing list of Head coaches is fewer than 20 statewide.

1. Alaska ALB Development season

The ALB Development season runs May 27 thru July 21 for all AA teams. The League AA championship season runs July 26 thru July 30 including State and Matson Invitational which follow Alaska ALB rules. Development season runs May 22 thru Aug 4 for A teams. These development rules apply to all league, nonleague and approved exhibition games vs non Legion teams, including games in invitational tournaments played in ALB games in Alaska. It is the responsibility of each Post Mgr outside of Anchorage to make local umpires aware of this coach's memo under which games are conducted. It is the responsibility of Post mgr 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 Mgrs should pass this on to their 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 2019 rules as posted on the Alaska ALB website, www.alaskalegion.com

2. Due to Alaska's short season, the ALB 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 means 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 may apply in some AA and A tournament games. See Alaska rules for time limits on A/JV 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, ie, last team to score wins after time limit. Team's 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 games, unless other Alaska Dept rules are indicated.

6. Home team takes infield starting 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. AA point system rules based on League games

See the posted 2019 tiebreaker procedure on the Alaska Legion website for seeding for the State and Matson Tournament.

8. Forfeits

ALB in Alaska organizes and schedules games for the benefit of all teams to get game competition throughout the State. Hundreds of hours are 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 Mgr or each program to include AA and A teams. This is part of what coaches sign up for in ALB coaching. In League games forfeits are addressed with no point. After 1 forfeit loss due to lack of available players at the start of the that Post Mgr and team is on notice from the Dept. 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.

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 will be played between AA and A teams. In 2019 those games 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 make up games

Under Alaska 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 NONLEAGUE games.

11. Failure to Travel to a site

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

12. Social Media

Coaches are are reminded to caution your players, and your own coaches regarding use of social media in regards to ALB 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 American Legion Baseball.

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 if not posted this your warning that these are not to be tolerated. 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 Loretta French, Oberg, Kosinski 4 and 3, Bartlett and Mulcahy Stadium, Wasilla HS and or Redington HS field (if used) as well as any action taking place at Polar Little League Lions's Park Blackburn Field. Furthermore, garbage in the dugout area is also a reflection on teams behavior. Have you team clean up your dugout after games and practices.

14. ALB Diamond Baseballs

The official baseball for Legion AA teams and A games in 2019 is the Diamond AL official American Legion baseball specifically made for ALB play nationally. It is sponsored by Hilcorp. These special logo balls are to be used for all league play. Any other baseballs that are used must be ALB 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 of June 10, 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 players after June 10, 2019. See AK ALB 2019 . Up to 3 players AA can be named for playing in A games and must be roistered on the AA team registration form, and are not on the A team roster. Failure to submit the named players to the Dept by June 10, may jeopardize AA teams standings, or post season seeding. ALB leadership should not have to chase down these named AA players...each Post Manager is required to submit the names.

Beginning on June 10, ..the only AA or Open players allowed to play in AA or Open games are those on the AA national roster. These are AA players playing down. No other A/JV players allowed to play up in AA or Open games. 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 26 thru July 30 these three named AA players may ONLY play in AA games for the remainder of the season. They MAY not participate in the end of the season A tournament. No game or inning limit is involved for any players, , except for ALB national pitching count rules, which applies to BOTH levels of play if a player is pitching in AA and A games. The only Open team in Legion play is the South Open team, as they are playing largely an AA non league schedule. Beginning June 10...the South Open team can name 3 Open players that can also play for South JV...along with 3 different players from South AA who can play for South JV. . For clarification...beginning June 10....South AA and Open rosters are frozen and may not share players at all. For further clarification, teams that have TWO JV teams...can share the three names AA players dropping down. However an AA and Open team is limited to up to only THREE named players beginning June 10 that can play in games vs JV teams.

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 a Form #2, 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 in E. August 2019.

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 team's 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, coach's 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, coach bases. Coaches may wear wind breaker and pants...as long as uniform is worn underneath. All coaches and players are expected to have the ALB patch on their uniform for all games. Failure to do so, has consequences....see 2019 ALB rule book.

21. Ejections: If player or coach, or spectator is ejected from a game the ejection is for the remainder of the game and two additional games at that same level of play. 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. See 2019 Alaska ALB Rule book for specifics on ejections protocol.

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 30 minutes before the game time start. . 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 RF bullpen and batting cage.

24. Scores should be reported by winning team to Van Williams via email or text within 30 minutes after the end of the game.

25. Players' eligibility requirements are clearly spelled out in the Ak rule book. Released players or players cut are to follow Legion rules.

Only the Dept Chair can approve. There are specific rules for players in their final year of eligibility.

26. The 2019 Ak ALB rules take precedent over previous rulings, or assumptions. All Post managers and coaches should read the entire 38 pages to 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 is final.