

Changes coming to Alaska Legion in 2020

In 2020, Alaska Legion Baseball will expand opportunities for more Alaska youth to play on American Legion teams.

This includes encouraging more participation statewide with more teams.

The plan was announced by the Dept Alaska Chair Russ Baker.

Alaska Legion tryouts to occur earlier to allow for better options

Since fields are available in most parts of the State in late April...the deadline for an advertised tryout will be moved up into early May for all Legion programs.

Tryout Deadline MOA/Anchorage Sunday May 3rd

Tryout Deadline Rest of the State Sunday May 10th

Tryouts may occur in advance of these dates. This will allow scheduling to be done efficiently. Players that want to participate will be notified thru social media and other advertising methods.

Initial preliminary rosters due for Anchorage, Eagle River and Chugiak

Legion Varsity/AA and A/JV PRELIMINARY rosters will be submitted to the Dept Chair by Friday May 9th. Those rosters will be reviewed by a local background check company for verification of residence address of players. That roster will include all AA and A players that reside in that teams HS base school boundary area. Head Coaches WILL NOT have to identify players for AA/Varsity or A/JV at that time...just submit the overall list.

All players must meet residency requirements to participate in 2020 on an ALB AA/Varsity and A/JV team.

This will allow the ability to determine how many JV/A teams will be fielded for 2020 season.

Final roster assignments of both AA and all A teams will be due on May 31st.

Crossover AA players names would be due in early June.

Initial preliminary Rosters due outside of Anchorage

Initial rosters will be due by May 18...so the proper number of JV/A teams can be identified in Fairbanks and the Valley by the post teams.

Anchorage more playing opportunities for A/JV level players.

Any players not selected by an AA or A team, may participate in any area wide Municipality of Anchorage tryout on Sunday May 15th at K fields. Those players MUST have tried out for their team of residence. If they did not tryout they will be given an opportunity to play for their team of residence if space is available or enter the A/JV lottery.

At that tryout all ALB teams will be represented and Legion A/JV players only will be assigned to MOA Anchorage teams in random lottery. Players will be notified shortly thereafter. Players selected will report to the team that selected them only. No trades or exchanges are contemplated. Assignment does not affect future year eligibility or carry any legacy rights.

There will be no AA teams formed in this manner only JV/A teams may be formed.

American Legion nationally does not have coach's draft choices, brother, sister options in any of its National rules. Players are selected on ability determined by coaches.

Players not chosen by an AA or A team can opt to be placed on a newly formed one or two Legion A/JV team or teams for games beginning in early June playing approx. 12 games in June plus July tournaments. Those will be the Reds and Royals.

Those teams will be coached by Legion baseball ambassadors and coordinated by the Alliance for ALB.

Players not selected to an AA team...may chose to play JV/A if age appropriate per Alaska Legion rules.

Team make up and deadlines in Fairbanks and the Valley that have multiple teams

ALB will work with local Post teams in these areas to maximize the number of players participating...within Alaska ALB guidelines and agreed upon deadlines. . This will be done early enough to not jeopardize scheduling plans for the 400 games played Statewide. Advanced planning by Post teams will be required in making sure this happens.

Additionally JV/A teams statewide

Alaska ALB will assist in developing ideas for more statewide A/JV teams within Alaska ALB Rules

Other Changes for 2020

An early season AA and A Legion tournament schedule is being examined. More details will be forthcoming in the fall.

AA and A Tournament timetables for June and July 2020 will be announced in the fall of 2019.

Alaska Form 79 Ends Statewide

After consulting National American Legion officials, there will no longer be Alaska Form 79 offered for players in Alaska in 2020.

Previous year's Alaska Form #79 will be honored as approved in past years including 2019.

Players will play for the Legion Post team in their HS boundary residence area only.

No exceptions

Please note rules for players cut from AA teams...and for A/JV players which may be assigned to other teams per rules indicated below. (see transfer rules)

These are National ALB rules that will be observed.

Statewide Transfers AA players restructured.

Alaska Legion rules will be more restrictive on transfers of those players cut from teams that are AA/Varsity players. The 2020 Alaska Legion rule book will outline the procedures.

In the MOA

No longer will a transfer move to the team closest in distance in the MOA. This 2020 guideline is a more restrictive rule.

If they are cut from their American Legion team in MOA those players will go into a tryout on May 15 and any area AA teams will be able to pick up the player for the 2020 season only. That will be done by reverse order of 2019 American Legion AA season results. This mean's the MOA team that finishes lowest in the season ending tournaments in 2019, will have the first choice, 2nd worst next choice etc., of AA players cut from the players area ALB AA team. All selections will be final. No trading of players is allowed.

If an AA player is not selected by any team...they could play A/JV level if age appropriate i.e., no 19-year-olds and A teams are limited to three 18-year-olds per team.

Transfers In other areas Statewide for AA and A players

A complete review of the reason the players is cut from a team will be part of a transfer request to the Dept Chair. This will need to occur BEFORE any practices take place with a transferred AA player to validate

their eligibility.

MOA Area Transfers A/JV Players re-structured

The May 15 tryout will allow additional players to participate and be selected by a team. Therefore, there will be no transfers of A players to another specific area team since those not selected for their area of residence will either be picked up by another Legion A team in the lottery or join a formed Alliance ALB sponsored A team or teams. Those teams would be known as Reds and Royals.

Statewide A Level Players joining teams in June and July after season starts.

There still will be an opportunity for JV/A players to be added to A team rosters in June and July. However, this adding of players will be limited to their area of residence only if space is available or in Anchorage joining the Alliance formed team. The formed teams are valid for just one year.

Growth Rate

It is the goals of Am Legion BB in Alaska to grow the number of players participating by 10% over a two-year period starting in 2020 and 2021. That would add an additional 40 plus player statewide. Newly formed JV/A teams can also increase that number of overall AA and A players should that happen.

Alaska can lead the way nationally in American Legion play with this kind of growth opportunities for American Legion players.