

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

2026 VFW JUNIOR BASEBALL RULES

ARTICLE I – PLAYING REGULATIONS

All games shall be played under Minnesota High School Rules, except as follows:

- A. The uniform requirements are:
1. A complete baseball uniform of the same style and color must be worn by all members of the same team.
 2. All members of each team must be in proper uniform which will consist of the Post Name and Post Number or the Community name. The uniform must have the VFW patch displayed **on the left jersey sleeve**. Patches can be purchased through the VFW State Headquarters. The “Cross of Malta” cannot be worn. Players will have the VFW patch on uniforms throughout the season. **If players do not meet this rule, they will not be allowed to participate.**
 3. **Coaches shall have the VFW patch on their left sleeve to be allowed to coach bases. If not, they will be restricted to the dugout. Their uniform will consist of a baseball pant and jersey. Windbreaker tops are permitted if they have the VFW patch on left sleeve. NO SHORTS.**
 4. An identifying number of at least 4 inches must be worn on the back of the baseball shirt. **Players wearing a different numbered jersey than what is in the official Roster, must be reported to the State VFW Chairman prior to playing or will be restricted to the dugout for the game that they appeared in with improper number.**
 5. Copy of Team insurance must be shown.
- B. Two adult coaches or one coach and one active player are permitted on the coaching lines. Any player making undue remarks, smoking and/or using tobacco on the field or in the dugout will be ejected immediately from the game.
- C. Student/Coach Ejection from a Contest.
1. Any student or coach disqualified from a contest by game officials will be ineligible for the next regularly scheduled game/meet at that level of competition and all other games/meets in the interim at any level of competition.
 2. The second violation carries a four (4) game suspension.
- D. No team may play more than two games in one day. Extra innings in a game still count as part of the original game. Games are seven (7) innings in duration unless tied, then game will be continued until a winner is decided. In case game cannot be played to a full regulation seven (7) innings, an official game will be declared if the Home Team is ahead after 4½ innings of play and ahead anytime during the same number of bats after five (5) innings.
- E. No player may pitch more than 14 innings in the Tournament unless he/she has had two consecutive days of rest. One pitch/play constitutes an inning, if he/she is pitcher of record. Official scorer is responsible for tracking the pitchers.

- F. The ten (10) run rule will apply to all games of the tournament.
- G. The State V.F.W. Youth Activities Committee may prescribe such rule changes as deemed necessary for the Department Tournament.
- H. All protests regarding eligibility will be settled prior to the first pitch of the game.
- I. Catchers must wear the one piece Throat Protectors.

ARTICLE II – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. **Competition in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Baseball Tournament for 2026 is open to any player who was enrolled as a Sophomore, or lower, grade level during the past school year, or was born on or after June 1, 2009.** All Players will be Minnesota residents or be a FULL-TIME student of a Minnesota school to be eligible to play. All Players will play on the team that is in their respective school districts. In cases where the school they attend does not have a VFW team, they will be allowed to play on the next closest team. In cases where circumstances prevent a player from playing on this team, they must apply for a waiver (found on website), through the State Baseball Chairman. These will be handled on a case by case basis and must be approved prior to playing to be eligible.
- B. Players must, before the start of District and Department play, have their eligibility checked. Eligibility will be checked by picture ID, Driver's License, Student ID, Birth Certificate, or a certified affidavit signed by the clergyman on their stationary.
- C. In case the player was born outside of the United States, he will present such certificate as accepted by the U.S. Department of Immigration and Naturalization.

ARTICLE III - TEAM AND PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

- A. All VFW sponsored teams will have a "June 1st Form" (found on website) submitted to the District Baseball Chairman by June 1st, teams not submitting this will NOT be allowed to play in the District or Department Tournament.
- B. Every team must be sponsored by a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post all season and must register on the VFW roster (found on website). ALL teams will submit their roster to the STATE Baseball Chairman by June 1st or enter them in the SportsEngine team page. The State Chairman will review, approve or disapprove, stamp as such and return a copy to the team and to the District Youth Chairman if applicable. The team will only need a second roster submitted if any changes are made, this will be due by July 1st. The team will need to enter their roster on SportsEngine, this will be due by July 1st. After July 1st, NO changes to the rosters on the SportsEngine site will be allowed. The July 1st Roster will be the Official Roster for District and State Tournament play. Any team playing a game(s) without an approved roster will be INELIGIBLE for any/all post season play. The District Youth Chairmen will send a picture with names of their District winner to the State Tournament Host, by email or PDF or snail mail if they are not already available on the team's SportsEngine page.
- C. Forms must be filled out completely; all information MUST be typed. Teams not filling out rosters correctly, maybe withheld from advancing to State competition. Letter C is only applicable if the team is unable to enter information in the Team's SportsEngine page.
- D. Each team roster must be restricted to twenty (20) players that are eligible to play at the Department Tournament. **Players not checked in or not on the roster prior to playing at the State**

Tournament, will be removed from the tournament and the games they were involved in forfeited.

- E. All head coaches and at least one assistant coach must complete the concussion training to be allowed to coach at the VFW level. Copies of completion will be submitted with the roster and will remain on file with the roster. All certificates must be current at the time of the State Tournament.
- F. Each team will be allowed up to three (3) coaches in dugout and on roster. This will be a head coach and two assistants. No others allowed in dugout. All coaches will furnish complete information on the team's roster. Teams will only be allowed banquet and tournament passes for up to twenty (20) players and up to three (3) coaches.

ARTICLE IV - DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Determine the site of the State Tournament.
 - 1. All bids for the Tournament must be sent to the Department Youth Activities Chairman and to the State Baseball Chairman at least one (1) week prior to the Fall Conference with a complete listing of the available facilities.
 - 2. The Department of Minnesota V.F.W. will, prior to any Post receiving an award of a State Tournament, make sure the bidder has fulfilled all requirements to the Department involving VFW business.
 - 3. **In order to host the VFW Department Baseball Tournament, the Post must be sponsoring a team in the league or their district must have teams in the league.**
 - 4. All bids will be awarded at the Fall Conference, if no bids are awarded, the Youth Committee will select a site for the hosting of a tournament with Council of Administration approval.
 - 5. The Department Baseball Chairman will inspect the proposed site in the spring of the year of the tournament. Approval of such will be forwarded to the Department Office.
- B. Any changes to Rules, awarding of sites or adding/deleting activities will be acted upon by the Youth Activities Committee prior to being presented to the Council of Administration for ratification. The proposed changes shall be acted upon at the Fall Conference.
- C. Each District is entitled to one (1) entry team per 7 teams playing in their District advancing to State competition, with no more than 2 teams from each district. Exception is the host is allowed a team.
- D. The Department Chairman will settle all protests prior to the first pitch of the game and will check all player eligibility prior to a player playing.
- E. The State Tournament will be a double elimination Tournament and will be held the first weekend of August. In case of rain delays, the Tournament will be continued until completed.
- F. If the 1st of August falls on a Sunday, this is considered the first weekend.
- G. Umpires decisions are final. V.F.W rules supersede all High School Rules.
- H. The Department Baseball Chairman will draw up the original bracketing. The final bracket, with times and field assignments, will be approved by the Department Chairman prior to them being sent to the advancing teams.

- I. Department Chairman has the option of pulling the tournament from the awarded site if the site does not follow the State Tournament guidelines.
- J. **The Home team for the first round of the tournament will be decided the night before at the coaches meeting via coin flip.** After each team has played one game, the Home team will be decided by coin flip. Home team, once decided, will have the option to take the third base dugout throughout.

ARTICLE V - DISTRICT YOUTH CHAIRMAN RESPONSIBILITY

- A. District Chairmen WILL, prior to any teams playing in their district, furnish a copy of the State V.F.W. rules to each team.
- B. They WILL, set up and direct a District playoff to select a team to advance to the Department tournament.
- C. They WILL, prior to the District playoff, send a copy of the district bracketing to the State Chairman.
- D. They WILL certify that all players and teams are eligible to play in District playoffs.
- E. **DISTRICT PLAYOFFS MUST BE COMPLETED AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE DEPARTMENT TOURNAMENT. THIS IS A MUST.**
- F. If weather disrupts District playoffs, the District Chairman must report immediately to the State Baseball Chairman.
- G. District Chairman will submit finished bracket of their playoffs to the State Baseball Chairman.
- H. All District Chairmen will be required to attend Fall Conference. If they cannot attend, the District Commander will appoint someone, in writing to State Youth Chairman, that they are filling in and have the voting power. If the District Commander does not have a representative in attendance, the District Youth Chairman will be replaced by the State Commander

ARTICLE VI – HOST POST RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Local V.F.W. will organize and direct the State Tournament. They will appoint a V.F.W. member to be the Tournament Director.
- B. Host site must have two (2) fields in excellent shape. One must have lights, as well as a batting cage and pitching screen for both Left and Right-handed players.
- C. Host will provide housing of three (3) rooms, these will be for the Department Commander, Department Youth Chairman, and the Department Baseball Chairman.
- D. They will operate the tournament in general, handling all advertising and publicity. They will contact the participating teams regarding expectations and give them the necessary information. Host Post will retain all proceeds from the tournament.
- E. Prior to the site director sending any information to the advancing teams the State Baseball Chairman will approve information. The Post must have a team playing VFW Baseball or their District must have teams playing in the VFW League.

- F. A copy of the Official Baseball rules will be at the field in the hands of the Baseball Chairman or the Tournament Director.
- G. The Tournament Director will make sure that all income and expenses of the Tournament are handled in accordance with the Department rules and follow all National and State By-Laws. I.E. monies- all monies must be handled by the Host Post Quartermaster.
- H. Have a photographer or someone capable of taking team pictures present before each first round game and for awarded presentations.
- I. There shall be a certified athletic trainer, emergency medical technician (EMT) or medical or osteopathic physician in attendance at all games.
- J. Obtain two (2) qualified, and Uniformed, Umpires for each game. (Three (3) for the final game). If the umpires work more than one game, they shall rotate positions.
- K. Provide protective coverings for the bases, home plate, and the pitcher's mound.
- L. The Sportsmanship Code will be read on the field before games. The Host Director will make sure there are copies available at all the ballparks.
- M. Provide all District Youth Chairmen with Tournament passes.
- N. ***Each Post sponsoring a team in the State Tournament is requested to have a Post Representative in attendance. Sign-in sheets may be available.***
- O. The Department will provide the 1st Place trophy. Remaining awards for 2nd – 4th places will be the responsibility of the Host Post and will be given the teams and players.
- P. **Upon completion of the Tournament, the Host Director will submit a tournament breakdown in regards to income and expenses.** They will also offer other items of interest that will help future sites.
- Q. At the conclusion of the Tournament, a check for \$1,000.00, made out to Department of Minnesota V.F.W., will be given to the Department Youth Chairman or Baseball Chairman. This check will be from the Host Post, The check will be used to help defray the cost of jackets for the winning team. The winning team will purchase jackets, and or rings which **MUST** show that they represented the V.F.W. When the jackets are purchased a copy of the purchase receipt will be sent to the Department Baseball Chairman and they will authorize the release of up to \$1,000.00 from the Department. If the team does not furnish proof of purchase, prior to June 30th of fiscal year, the \$1,000.00 will be returned to the teams/Posts that paid the fee.
- R. Gate fees are at the discretion of the Host, but effective in 2021 a Tourney pass will be offered with a maximum cost of \$20.00. \$15.00 is the suggested cost.

ARTICLE VII - PARTICIPATING TEAMS

- A. Sponsoring Posts are encouraged to pay for meals and transportation for their District and Department Tournaments.
- B. Sponsoring Posts are also encouraged to pay for five (5) rooms for their team, plus one (1) for coaches, at a Hotel or Motel.

- C. Proper supervision of the team members must be provided at all times, especially at night. Action detrimental to the program by team members or coaches can mean removal of the team from the Tournament. A responsible adult should be with players at all times.
- D. If the District Champion or Runner Up does not compete in the State Tournament, that team will forfeit their Post's entry for the following year.
- E. All teams must be at the playing field one (1) hour before game time.
- F. Each Team will submit, to the State Baseball Chairman upon check-in, a CHECK FOR \$200 (made payable to Host Post).

The 72nd ANNUAL DEPARTMENT JUNIOR BASEBALL TOURNAMENT WILL BE PLAYED ON THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY **July 30th, July 31st, August 1st and August 2nd. More information about Tournaments will be released by April 1st.**

The 2027 - 2028 Tournaments will be open for bid at the 2026 Fall Conference.

STATE OF MINNESOTA VFW BASEBALL

We would like to ask all competitors to abide by "The Student Athlete's Code of Sportsmanship" which is:

1. We will respect all aspects of the game: ourselves, all coaches, all officials, teammates, opponents, fans, and the rules; regardless of the behavior of others.
2. We will support our teammates and be team players.
3. We will recognize who and what we are representing.
4. We will show no bias, no prejudice, or preferential treatment on or off the field.
5. We will take responsibility for our own behavior.
6. We will be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

VFW WAIVER FORM

This form is hereby submitted to request to play outside of the school district to which I attend.

Player Name: _____

School District: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Local Coach: _____

Address: _____

Phones: _____

District # (circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Waiver Approved: _____

Waiver Disapproved: _____

Reason for Approval or Disapproval:

Team information to which I am requesting to be a member of:

Coach _____ Name: _____

School District: _____

Coach Address: _____

Phones: _____

District # (circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

I realize that, even though requesting this waiver, I am NOT guaranteed that it will be approved. This waiver is yearly and only pertains to VFW baseball.

Player Signature _____ Date: _____

District Youth Chairman Signature _____ Date: _____

Approved _____ Disapproved _____

PLEASE SEND ANY FORMS TO VFW CHIARMAN BY US MAIL OR EMAIL AS A PDF FILE .

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

VFW JUNIOR BASEBALL
PAST TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

<i>Annual Tournament Number</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Hosted By VFW Post</i>	<i>State Champion VFW Post</i>	<i>Post Home City</i>	<i>VFW District</i>
1	1955	West St Paul #4462	Post 4462	WEST ST. PAUL	4th
2	1956	Bloomington #1296	Post 6845	ST. PAUL	4th
3	1957	St Charles #5630	Post 1296	BLOOMINGTON	7th
4	1958	Northfield #4393	Post 6845	ST. PAUL	4th
5	1959	Litchfield #2818	Post 6845	ST. PAUL	4th
6	1960	Ely #2717	Post 612	FERGUS FALLS	9th
7	1961	Fergus Falls #612	Post 2717	ELY	8th
8	1962	Waseca #1642	Post 1296	BLOOMINGTON	7th
9	1963	Alexandria #936	Post 1778	WELLS	2nd
10	1964	Keewatin #5516	Post 1287	WINONA	1st
11	1965	Mankato #9713	Post 1296	BLOOMINGTON	7th
12	1966	Keewatin #5516	Post 5039	MORRIS	5th
13	1967	Morris #5039	Post 1648	NEW ULM	2nd
14	1968		Post 3024	NASHWAUK	8th
15	1969	Keewatin #5516	Post 1287	WINONA	1st
16	1970	Alexandria #936	Post 1112	LITTLE FALLS	6th
17	1971	South St Paul #295	Post 1287	WINONA	1st
18	1972	Ely #2717	Post 2717	ELY	8th
19	1973	Morris #5039	Post 1216	AUSTIN	1st
20	1974	St Paul #6845	Post 1296	BLOOMINGTON	7th
21	1975	Glendorado #806	Post 1296	BLOOMINGTON	7th
22	1976	Thief River Falls #2793	Post 6845	ST. PAUL	4th
23	1977	Waseca #1642	Post 6845	ST. PAUL	4th
24	1978	Winona #1287	Post 1914	ST. JAMES	2nd
25	1979	Wadena #3922	Post 3877	ST. PAUL	4th
26	1980	Fairmont #1222	Post 3877	ST. PAUL	4th
27	1981	St Cloud #4847	Post 1648	NEW ULM	2nd
28	1982	New Ulm #1648	Post 1296	BLOOMINGTON	7th
29	1983	Sleepy Eye #800	Post 6915	COLD SPRING	6th
30	1984	Grand Rapids #1720	Post 6210	ST. PAUL	4th
31	1985	Sleepy Eye #800	Post 1260	BEMIDJI	9th
32	1986	Rochester #1215	Post 1215	ROCHESTER	1st
33	1987	Fergus Falls #612	Post 1149	MINNEAPOLIS	7th
34	1988	Duluth #137	Post 6210	ST. PAUL	4th
35	1989	Moorhead #1223	Post 742	MARSHALL	3rd
36	1990	Mankato #950	Post 6316	BLAINE	7th
37	1991	Hibbing #8510	Post 210	LAKEVILLE	2nd
38	1992	Willmar #1639	Post 6915	COLD SPRING	6th
39	1993	Brainerd #1647	Post 936	ALEXANDRIA	5th
40	1994	Moorhead #1223	Post 6210	ST. PAUL	4th
<i>Annual</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Hosted By</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Post Home City</i>	<i>VFW</i>

Tournament		VFW Post	Champion VFW Post		District
41	1995	Rochester #1215	Post 1215	ROCHESTER	1st
42	1996	Austin #1216	Post 6210	ST. PAUL	4th
43	1997	Marshall #742	Post 1210	HASTINGS	2nd
44	1998	Alexandra #936	Post 6210	ST. PAUL	4th
45	1999	Moorhead #1223	Post 6210	ST. PAUL	4th
46	2000	Northfield #4393	Post 494	CRYSTAL	7th
47	2001	Mankato #950	Post 936	ALEXANDRIA	5th
48	2002	Northfield #4393	Post 6320	DULUTH	8th
49	2003	Moorhead #1223	Post #950	MANKATO	2nd
50	2004	Alexandria #936	Post #6583	CENTENNIAL	7th
51	2005	Marshall #742	Post #6210	ST PAUL	4th
52	2006	Crystal #494	Post #230	COLUMBIA HEIGHTS	7th
53	2007	New Ulm #1648	Post #6210	ST PAUL	4th
54	2008	Perham #4020	Post 6915	COLD SPRING	6th
55	2009	St Cloud #428	Post #1216	AUSTIN	9th
56	2010	Austin #1216	Post #1260	BEMIDJI	9th
57	2011	Bemidji #1260	Post #9433	EAGAN	2nd
58	2012	Mankato #950	Post #495	ST CLOUD	6th
59	2013	Ely #2717	Post #11543	OSSEO-MAPLE GROVE	7th
60	2014	Brainerd #1647	Post #6690	MENDOTA	4th
61	2015	New Ulm #1648	Post #1720	GRAND RAPIDS	8th
62	2016	Fergus Falls #612	Post #4210	FOREST LAKE	7th
63	2017	Willmar #1639	Post # 8731	MONTICELLO	6th
64	2018	Brainerd #1647	Post #1791	CHASKA	2nd
65	2019	Brainerd #1647	Post #6992	SAUK RAPIDS	6th
66	2020	Cancelled Due To	COVID		
67	2021	Austin #1216	Post #1720	GRAND RAPIDS	8TH
68	2022	Austin #1216	Post #6992	SAUK RAPIDS	6TH
69	2023	St. Cloud #4847	Post #950	MANKATO	2nd
70	2024	St. Cloud #4847	Post #5518	ELK RIVER	7TH
71	2025	St. Cloud #4847	Post 8731	Monticello	6th
72	2026				
73	2027				
74	2028				