

## **VFW General Rules up to date as of July 10, 2010.**

1. A regional tournament consists of teams from one area or region participating against each other.
2. Rosters for Regional tournament play cannot exceed 18 boys.
3. Entrants in the District or Regional Tournaments must be decided by the Regional Commissioners and State VFW Baseball Chairman as soon as possible. Regional Tournament sites will be determined by Regional Commissioners and approved by State VFW Baseball chairman. Regional Commissioner will make the drawings for Regional Tournaments. In a situation where the Regional Commissioner is also a coach of a team within the region, a drawing must take place in front of one or more coaches within the region or an official from the Department Headquarters. Before any Varsity A or Varsity B Regional Tournaments are held, the State A 13-14 Year Old Tournament must be completed.
4. All VFW Baseball Tournaments games shall be of 7 innings duration unless a team is leading by 10 runs at the end of the 5 innings, 4 ½ innings if the home team is leading by 10 runs, or if a team is leading by that number of runs any complete inning thereafter. A team leading by 15 runs or more after 3 complete innings, or any complete inning thereafter until the ten run rule becomes effective will be declared the winner.
5. At least one of the umpires for all regional and state tournaments must be registered. A registered umpire shall act as the umpire-in-chief unless waived by the teams involved. All championship games must have three umpires in state tournaments.
6. All varsity regional tournaments shall be either single or double elimination with the decision to be made by the coaches and regional commissioner involved; and the A Varsity and B Varsity State Tournaments shall be single elimination. The AA Varsity State Tournament format maybe single elimination, double elimination or pool play divided into two classes, majors and minors to be determined by the regional commissioners. In AA, when a four region (champion and runner-up advancing to the state tournament) format is used the four regional champions will be awarded home team status in the first around. All registered teams must play in a qualifying regional tournament. If pool play format is used in an "open" state tournament, there would be no need for a qualifying regional tournament.
7. Insurance is mandatory for each team in tournament play. A copy must be placed on file with the State VFW Headquarters by June 10th, at the same time team entry forms and team rosters are required.
8. All teams, including coaches, shall be in baseball uniforms for tournament play. If a coach or team player is not in uniform they will not be allowed on the field.
9. A state tournament consists of one team from each region, plus a host team from the host region for Class A Varsity and Class B Varsity State Tournaments. The Class AA Varsity State Tournament consists of two teams from each region, with one team from the host region being the host team for the tournament.
10. There will be seven A Varsity teams and a host team and seven B Varsity teams and a host team taking part in the respective state tournaments. AA Varsity will have seven teams or all teams within the classes divide into majors or minors.
11. The State Varsity AA Tournament will be rotated by regions each year starting in 1976 with Region 1

as the host, and following each year thereafter in order 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Starting in 2008 the State Varsity AA Tournament, when a pool play format is used, will be divided into two divisions called Major and Minor. Major Division will consist of teams with more advanced players than minor division teams. A baseball program must have a team in the major division before they can have a team or teams in the minor division. The format will be a pool play format and regional tournaments will be eliminated. Number of teams and baseball diamonds will determine if the tournament will be played over a three day or four day period. The format for the tournament will be determined by the registered teams in the Varsity AA Class. One vote per team. Tournament can be played at one site or two sites with the Major Division at one location and the Minor Division located at another site. The State A Tournament will be rotated each year starting in 1976 with Region 3 as the host and following each year thereafter in the order 4, 5, 6, 7, 1 and 2. The State B Tournament will be rotated by regions each year starting in 1976 with Region 3 as the host and following each year in the order 4, 5, 6,7, 1 and 2. The regional commissioners in each class will pick the site of the State Tournament during the annual VFW Baseball Committee Meeting. Starting in 2009 tournament dates and sites will be chosen one year in advance. Starting in 2007 a State Tournament Fee of \$300 will be charge to each host team of a state tournament. Fee shall be paid to the State VFW Headquarters within 30 days prior to the tournament. Starting in 2010 the right to waive the tournament shall be in order for all classes until November 1st of the prior year the tournament will be play in, and if the tournament is waived it shall be offer to another team within the region or it shall progress to the next region in order. The Regional Commissioner shall select a host site by January 1st of the year the tournament will be played in.

12. Rosters for State Tournament play cannot exceed 18 players for AA, A and B tournaments.

13. The game to determine 7th and 8th place in the AA, A and B State Tournaments will not be played in any of the tournaments.

14. Any team that does not report to play or notify the tournament officials at any regional or state tournament of a bonafide reason for being late by 30 minutes past the time established to play, shall forfeit the game.

15. State tournaments will not be played on any diamond where another baseball tournament is being played on the same diamond on the same dates.

16. Trophies shall be furnished for state tournaments by the Department of South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars. Trophies for all state tournaments with eight team format shall be awarded to the winner, runner-up, third and fifth place winners. Individual medals will also be presented to the members of all the teams that participate in the tournament. Trophies for all state tournaments with a pool format shall be awarded to the winner, runner-up, third place winner and in some tournaments their maybe an 4th place trophy. Individual medals will be presented to members of the top four teams. Sportsmanship Team Plaque will be presented in the memory of Louie Thury by the South Dakota Baseball Umpire Association for the Varsity AA, A and B Tournaments. Sportsmanship Team Plaque will be presented in memory of William Radigan by the South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars for 13-14 Year Old AA and A Tournaments. These awards are the only awards presented at a VFW State Tournament.

17. Photo copies of Birth, Baptism or Hospital Certificates; Certified Copy from the Bureau of Vital Statistics or a valid Driver's License must be presented at the regional and state tournaments.

18. Birth certificates and team rosters for state tournament play should be submitted to the tournament chairman if possible at least 2 hours before game time so that they may be checked. It is also necessary to check birth certificates and rosters at regional tournaments.

19. Tournament officials have complete autonomy on taking whatever action is necessary in behavior problems of participants. Severe cases may result in a team being disqualified.

20. In interest of time all rained out or postponed championship round ball games in tournament play will begin from point of stoppage unless the Ten Run Rule has taken effect. It is recommended during regular league play that if a game is rained out it should be called a game if five or more innings have been played.

## **Additional 12U Rules As of July 10, 2010**

1. Competition is open to boys and girls who are 12 and under years of age and eligible to play VFW Baseball. A boy or girl who has reached his or her 13th birthday by May 1st of the current year is not eligible for the 12 and under programs. There will be three classes AA Travel, A and B. Starting in 2009 tournament sites and dates will be chosen one year in advance by the State Baseball Chairman and State VFW Officials during annual VFW Baseball Committee Meeting. The number of teams that register, skill level of team players and high school enrollments will be factors when teams are placed in a class.

Considerations that best fit the situation for each team will be taken to place a team in a certain class.

2. A 12 and under Baseball team to be eligible for any tournament play must submit a \$75.00 entry Fee and 12 and under Entry Form to Department Headquarters, 3601 South Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57105 postmarked on or before June 10th and 12 under and roster on or before June 10th. If the team entry fee and other information are received after June 10th or are postmarked after June 10th the team entry fee will be increase by \$25.00 and be \$100.00 per team.

3. Team entry forms and team roster forms must be postmarked by June 10th and sent to VFW Department Headquarters. Team roster forms must include the name of the player, complete address of the player, name of school attended the last school year and date of birth. If this information is incomplete, it can affect the eligibility of the player. You may list up to (25) twenty-five players per roster for each team.

4. All games in the 12 and under division will be six (6) innings. The 10 run rule will be effect after 4 innings and the 15-run rule will be in effect after 3 innings. There will be no tie. Games will go extra innings if needed to determine the winner.

5. Pitching distance for the mound will be 48 feet and bases will be 65 feet.

6. Pitching rules are 3 innings per game, 6 innings per day, 12 innings a tournament. Any violation to the pitching rules (inning pitch) will result in a forfeit of that game. Pitchers will be allowed 6 warm up pitches between innings. There is no balk rule, there will be no balks. If a pitcher takes another position on the field, he/she may not pitch again in that game.

7. Batter, base runners, bat boys, any players acting as base coach and any players out of the dugout must wear a helmet that covers both ears.

8. Catchers must wear a protective headgear, chest protectors, throat protectors, catcher's cup and shin guards. This includes catchers warming up a pitcher.

9. Metal cleats are not allowed.

10. Bats may be no more than 2 ¼ inches in diameter and no more than 33 inches in length. Any illegal bat will be removed from the game and the batter is out.

11. Base running. Stealing is permitted, however, the runner cannot leave the base until the ball crosses the plate. The runner is out if he/she leaves the base early. The batter may run on a dropped third strike.

12. A courtesy runner is encouraged but not required for a catcher with two outs and it is also optional for a pitcher with two outs, but must be a bench player.

13. A courtesy runner may be any player who is not currently in the game and does not count as an entry into the game. A courtesy runner may later enter the game at any position.

14. Slide rule is in effect if a fielder has the ball before the run reaches 2nd, 3rd, or home. The runner is out if contact made, umpire discretion will be applied and decision is final.

15. You may replace starters during the game, but if he/she re-enters the game, he/she must go into the game for the player he/she was replaced by and also in the same spot in the batting. When the sub comes out, he/she is out of the game. In the event of a serious injury and there are no players left on the bench who have not played, the last player taken out may be placed back in the game in place of the injured player. In the alternative, in case of serious injury, a team may continue to play with eight players and the team will receive an automatic out when that player's turn to bat occurs.

16. VFW baseball rules will apply to all games unless a change is listed above.